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Mideast Environment Meeting Ends Without Action

OW1905124892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 19 KYODO—A two-day conference on the environment in the Middle East ended here Tuesday with agreement on the need for regional cooperation to resolve environmental problems, but without adopting any concrete proposals to that end.

Foreign Ministry officials said it was also agreed that the next meeting of the working group on the environment, one of five groups focusing on different issues which make up the multilateral track of the Middle East peace negotiations, should be held in The Hague sometime in the early fall.

Officials said they were relieved to have pulled off the meeting, Japan's most high-profile initiative ever to promote the Middle East peace process, in the face of sporadic bickering between Israelis and Palestinians that threatened to sabotage it.

They implicitly criticized the two delegations, saying there were "unduly politicized statements made at the meeting that should be discussed instead in the political bilateral talks."

The Palestinians were singled out for insisting that environmental problems cannot be solved as long as Israel continues its occupation.

The meeting ended with a concluding assessment by the Japanese delegation that said in part that some of the environmental issues in the region "may not be adequately addressed with due respect to the underlying political and socio-economic conditions."

The officials said over five hours of efforts to arrive at a consensus summation of the meeting failed when Israel balked at an uncompromising Palestinian demand for an explicit reference to the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if environmental problems are to be addressed.

They said the Japanese delegation had attempted to strike a compromise by referring vaguely to "underlying political and socio-economic conditions," hoping that would satisfy the Palestinians and that the Israelis would go along.

The four other working groups, focusing on arms control, economic development, water resources, and refugees, also either failed to produce summaries or were boycotted by either the Israelis or the Palestinians, they pointed out.

The officials said the wording used in the assessment was not a reference exclusively to the Israeli occupation, but also reflected the effect on the environment of such things as overpopulation, an influx of refugees, and economic troubles.

They said the final assessment also noted that all participants at the meeting agreed on the importance of regional cooperation to resolve environmental problems and reconfirmed that the multilateral negotiations are designed to support, and not to take precedence over, bilateral Israeli-Arab talks.

Among the 37 delegations attending are representations from Israel, a number of Arab states, Japan, the United States, Russia, China, India, and the European Community (EC). Palestinians from the Occupied Territories were included in a joint delegation with Jordan.

Participating Palestinians voiced opposition to progress in the multilateral track of Middle East negotiations far exceeding progress in bilateral negotiations.

At one point the meeting came close to a breakdown when Palestinians drew Israeli ire by acknowledging the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and claiming to represent all the Palestinians.

Under a formula designed to entice Israel to the negotiating table, Palestinian representatives from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, but not East Jerusalem and the diaspora, are allowed to participate in a joint delegation with Jordan.

A senior PLO official is in Tokyo serving as the Palestinian team's "supervisor" outside the conference site.

Among the various recommendations aired on the environment were a Russian proposal for establishment of a center for environmental information in the Middle East.

Israel proposed direct communication links between Israel and Arab countries of the region for use in environmental emergencies, as well as an air pollution monitoring network and consultations on emergency procedures to respond to accidental oil spills in surrounding waters.

Egypt proposed a declaration of basic principles for regional environmental cooperation, safe management and disposal of radioactive waste, early notification of nuclear accidents, and bans on military activities that adversely affect ecological systems and "the transfer of all activities detrimental to the environment of other countries of the region."

Japanese officials said that prior to the next meeting in the Netherlands, some countries may send environmental survey missions to countries such as Jordan, which was particularly keen to welcome them.

Japan

Auto Manufacturers React to U.S. Dumping Ruling

OW2005013292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0120 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japanese auto manufacturers disputed Wednesday a U.S. ruling that they are selling their minivans in the United States at unfairly low prices.

"We are very surprised to hear the ruling. We cannot understand how such a result could come out," said an official of Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's No. 1 exporter of minivans to the U.S. "It is regrettable that the U.S. Government turned a deaf ear to our arguments," he said.

The U.S. Commerce Deparment ruled Tuesday that Toyota and Mazda Motor Corp. are selling their minivans in the U.S. market at prices 6.75 percent and 12.70 percent, respectively, lower than those charged in Japan. The two automakers will face antidumping duties of up to the alleged dumping margins if the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) finds their pricing causes damage to the U.S. auto industry.

Officials of both Toyota and Mazda said they feared the Commerce Department's final ruling, based on a complaint filed by the "Big Three" U.S. automakers, would inflict an additional blow to them.

Mazda, the second-largest Japanese exporter of minivans to the U.S., suffered a 32 percent plunge in minivan sales there during the first four months of this year, largely because of an 8.7 percent hike in the price of its MPV minivan, which the company carried out in response to the charge filed in May last year.

"We have suffered enough," a Mazda official said.

Sales of Toyota's Previa minivans—a model known in Japan as the Estima—are also slumping, while those of the Big Three, which control 90 percent of the U.S. minivan market, are brisk. Both companies said they will repeat their denial of dumping charges until the last minute in hopes of "a fair judgement from the ITC." Few industrial sources, however, expect the ITC will reverse the Commerce Department's ruling in its final determination expected in early June.

Argument With U.S. Over Aviation Rights Viewed

OW2005080092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0738 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. aviation authorities are expected to argue vehemently over landing and beyond rights when they meet sometime after this fall, aviation sources said Wednesday.

The authorities are scheduled to meet after this fall to discuss flight allotments at Kansai international airport scheduled to open in the summer of 1994 and are likely to argue about that as well, they said.

In late April the Transport Ministry for just one month permitted Northwest Airlines, a U.S. airline company, to extend its New York-Osaka route to Sydney, they said.

Transport Ministry officials maintain that the extension of Northwest's flights between New York and Osaka to Sydney violate beyond rights reached between Japan and the U.S.

Official on Combat Training Facility Withdrawal

OW2005123492 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 20 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Regarding the withdrawal of the Urban Combat Training Facility [UCTF], as announced by Vice President Quayle on 15 May, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] indicated its view that similar facilities would not be constructed in the future on Okinawa. This was disclosed by Deputy Chief Shingo Sumiyoshi at a news conference on 18 May.

Regarding the UCTF in Onna-son, an agreement was reached in 1990 to remove them—on the condition that they could be moved somewhere else. People were paying attention to anything regarding the future of the UCTF. However, this was the first time that a senior official of the DFAA referred negatively to the construction of a new facility.

In response to a question as to whether the U.S. military, after removing the facilities in Onna-son, will set up a training facility in another location, Deputy Chief Sumiyoshi said: "According to the notice we received through the foreign ministry, the facilities will be withdrawn at this time. We have not heard anything about the new construction of a similar facility. I do not think that a new facility will be constructed."

He then added: "I do not think that they will be constructed in another place because the U.S. side is clearly saying that they will remove the buildings.

Regarding the fact that the U.S. Marines in Okinawa declared that they would continue to use the UCTF in the future, Deputy Chief Sumiyoshi stated: "Of course training will not be held at the facilities, which will be removed at this time. They may use other existing facilities for training." Thus, he indicated his view that training facilities such as the ones located at Fukuyama in Ginoza-son, will be used in the future.

Mieno Says Higher Yen Reflects G-7 Statement

OW2005073692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The recent appreciation of the yen against the U.S. dollar reflects the recent yen-supporting statement issued by Group of Seven

(G-7) industrial nation financial leaders, Yasushi Mieno, governor of the Bank of Japan, said Wednesday.

Mieno also told reporters that he would like to see the yen stabilize at a yet higher rate against the dollar.

The statement issued at the end of the Washington meeting of G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors in late April indicated G-7 nations would prefer a stronger yen.

Mieno also said he would like to see slower and more stable growth for Japan now than the 5 percent growth rate Japan previously sought.

He also said inventory reduction will continue through coming months and will reach a turning point "sometime after this fall."

Mieno declined, however, to predict exactly when the reduction process will end.

Kondo Proposes G-7 Meeting of Labor Ministers

OW2005035592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo suggested Wednesday to U.S. and European Community (EC) diplomats that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations should hold a meeting of labor ministers to discuss the unemployment problem.

The proposal was made to diplomats of the United States and the EC stationed in Tokyo specializing in labor affairs. Labor Ministry officials said the foreign attaches welcomed the idea.

Kondo stressed the significance of tackling the unemployment issue, saying global economic conditions will not improve merely through financial and monetary policies, the officials said.

Officials Meet Reporters After OECD Meeting

OW1905233792 Tokyo KYODO in English 2312 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Paris, May 19 KYODO—Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe on Tuesday expressed satisfaction over a just-ended ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Watanabe, meeting reporters after the two-day OECD meeting ended earlier in the day, said the OECD, which groups 24 industrial nations, agreed on the significance of the two themes of trade and the environment and trade and competition for future world trade talks. He also said it was significant that the OECD meeting had agreed on the necessity to develop and transfer environment-related technology to developing countries, prior to the Earth Summit scheduled to be held in Brazil in June.

Japanese Economic Planning Agency head Takeshi Noda, who attended the OECD meeting with Watanabe from Japan, said Japan's economy is expected to pick up from early autumn. Noda also said the world economy is recovering slowly and each country should produce room to lower interest rates by making their finances sound.

Russian Politician Praises Watanabe's Proposal

OW2005103692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—A visiting Russian politician praised a Japanese proposal for the gradual return of four disputed islands Wednesday and said he believes the issue will be resolved during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's September visit.

"Foreign Minister (Michio) Watanabe's plan was very interesting and it is attracting attention and being studied," Vladimir Ispravnikov, chairman of the Russian Parliament's Supreme Economic Council, said in an interview with KYODO News Service.

Watanabe suggested last month Tokyo would accept the return of two smaller islands, Shikotan and the Habomai group, if Moscow recognizes Japan's residual sovereignty over the more populous Kunashiri and Etorofu and promises their eventual return.

"At present, I don't think we can be satisfied with this plan but it is very attractive because it stipulates a step-by-step process," Ispravnikov said.

He said there are some Russian opinion leaders who do not approve of the proposal and urged Japanese to understand that public opinion and the unstable domestic situation makes it difficult to arrive at a solution.

Ispravnikov, leading a delegation of Russian deputies to Japan at the invitation of the Japan-Russia Parliamentarians Friendship League, said Watanabe's proposal is being examined "from the perspective of international law and rights."

The legislator said Yeltsin is consulting with opinion leaders on the island dispute and is preparing a "realistic plan" to present when he visits Japan.

"The proposal will be cool, not emotional, and it is certain to contribute to the improvement of Japan-Russia relations," Ispravnikov said.

He said Russia is also soliciting views from Western countries that were involved in World War II.

The Soviet Army seized the islands after Japan conceded defeat at the end of World War II and the dispute over their sovereignty has been a barb in bilateral relations ever since.

Ispravnikov welcomed Japan's efforts to gain support for a resolution from leaders of other major industrialized countries.

Tokyo has told its major diplomatic partners it cannot offer major economic assistance to Russia without first putting an end to the dispute.

On economic reforms, Ispravnikov, a former economics professor, said the main stumbling block is lack of experience and a tradition of totalitarianism.

"Whether or not reforms are successful depends on whether domestic affairs go well," he said.

The four-member delegation will meet Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe and leaders of major political parties during its weeklong visit ending next Monday.

Russian Minister's Remarks on Islands Viewed

OW2005120492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Remarks allegedly made by new Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev that Russia will not withdraw its troops from disputed islands with Japan contradict a pledge made by President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

"They clearly contradict the statement made by Yeltsin when Foreign Minister (Michio) Watanabe visited Moscow early this month," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said Yeltsin "made it clear" then that as a step toward a resolution of the decades-old territorial issue with Japan all troops would be withdrawn, except for border guards, within one or two years' time.

A top ministry official said Japanese diplomats in Moscow have been instructed to try to confirm the accuracy of the remarks attributed to Grachev on Tuesday by Russia's ITAR-TASS and INTERFAX news agencies.

ITAR-TASS reported that the ex-paratroop commander, shortly after being named to his new post by Yeltsin, told a gathering in Moscow that considering the geostrategic interests of the Russian Army, "Russian troops will not withdraw from the Kuril Islands claimed by Japan."

Officials said inquiries will be made with the Russian Foreign Ministry and with other government representatives. Japan will decide how to react to the remarks after confirmation.

The demilitarization of the islands, located off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, is listed by Yeltsin as the third stage in his five-stage plan to settle the issue, of which the first two stages are said to have been completed.

Yeltsin was quoted as telling Watanabe in May that Moscow is ready to begin implementing the third stage of his five-stage plan and that all troops except border guards would be withdrawn over a period of one to two years.

The previous March, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said the troop level on the islands stood at 7,000 after having already been reduced by 30 percent.

Japan has repeatedly called for a removal of the troops from the islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets.

The islands were seized from Japan by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II. The subsequent territorial dispute has since served as the major stumbling block in bilateral relations and has prevented the two countries from concluding a peace treaty.

Japan refuses to give Russia full-fledged economic assistance until it recognizes Japanese residual sovereignty over the islands.

Group To Export Used Cars to Russian Far East

OW2005062892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Kanazawa, May 20 KYODO—A used car dealers association in central Japan said Wednesday it has signed a contract to export used cars to the Russian Far East.

The Ishikawa Prefectural Used Car Dealers Association, based in the Japan sea coast city of Matsuto, said the contract was signed with the city authorities of Bratsk, Irkutsk Oblast, and other administrative and economic organizations in the Russian Far East.

Under the contract, the Japanese association also will offer inspection services on used cars for export, record all exports on computers, ship car parts required for repairs with the help of computer data, and train Russian repair personnel at auto assembly plants in Ishikawa Prefecture, association officials said.

Sixty used cars will be shipped to Russia from the nearby port of Nanao at the end of this month as the first batch of exports under the contract, the officials said. They said a total of 1,300 used cars—averaging about 1,600 U.S. dollars in price—and 45,000 used tires will be exported under the contract before the end of the year.

The officials said demand is growing for Japanese used cars in the Soviet Far East, but mechanical trouble and accidents involving such cars are also increasing.

Survey Reports CIS Nuclear Stations' Problems

OW2005110592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Nuclear power stations in Ukraine are suffering from many operational problems, while those in Russia are operating relatively safely, according to a report released Wednesday by a study mission of an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industy [MITI].

The 21-member study mission visited the Commonwealth of Independent States on May 6-15 and now stays in Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia from May 16 to 30 for investigations on nuclear power stations there.

The agency of natural resources and energy will work out a program to train foreign engineers on nuclear power, based on the report and findings from similar investigation in the two East European countries expected to be available early in June, agency officials said.

According to the report, Russian reactors of the old type in Novovoronezh have made sufficient improvement in operation and maintenance as a result of advice by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

However, those in Ukraine are facing many operational difficulties after the independence from the former Soviet Union, upon which Ukrainian nuclear power stations depended for the supply of fuel, parts, and equipment, the report said.

Expectations for Japan's technical assistance are growing in Russia, which is suffering from serious lack of highly reliable electronic and computer technology, it said.

DA Wary of Converted Soviet Warships' Arrivals

OW2005112892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Defense Agency [DA] officials expressed concern Wednesday about the growing number of former Soviet warships converted to merchant vessels that are beginning to arrive at Japanese ports.

The officials are especially worried that these ships are expected to come to ports with Japanese naval facilities nearby and remarked that communication is necessary from the perspective of national security.

After last summer's failed coup d'etat, the now defunct Soviet Navy reregistered some of its warships as merchant vessels but the trading firms for which these ships sail appear to be related in part to the military, the officials said.

Last fall, the old Soviet warships began to arrive at Japanese ports, often bringing in timber from Russia and carrying away purchases of used cars and electrical goods.

Recently, a 2,800-ton transport vessel in the Partizan class, Ufa, arrived March 21 at Yatsuhiro Port in Kumamoto Prefecture, while the 6,000-ton Kashtan buoy tender, Kil 498, was docked last week at Naoetsu in Niigata Prefecture.

Neither vessel carried fixed weapons but are listed in Jane's List of the World's Fighting Ships, so they are still considered military vessels.

Earlier this year a scientific research ship of the old Soviet Water Utilization and Weather Bureau called on the U.S. naval base at Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, which is also home for Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force.

"It can be said that these ships are not registered as military vessels but they had military duties in the old Soviet Union," said one agency official, adding, "it is not desirable to have them entering Yokosuka all of a sudden."

Tokyo Comments Further on Situation in Thailand

Expresses Regrets Over Deaths

OW2005105892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan regrets the deaths of many people in Thailand during the Army's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said Japan's sentiments will be officially conveyed to the Thai Government as soon as Japanese Ambassador Hisahiko Okazaki manages to arrange a meeting with a high-level Thai official.

He said the message would say Japan is "deeply concerned about the present escalation of the tensions in the Thai political situation."

It will also say, "Japan deeply regrets the fact that many deaths occurred, no matter what the reasons behind them may be."

The official said Japan will strongly call on Thailand "to avoid bloodshed, while adopting a restrained approach."

Finally, he said, Japan will say it hopes calm will be restored and that it intends to closely monitor developments, particularly the follow-up to a recent agreement between the government and opposition parties to amend the Constitution to require that the prime minister be an elected member of the parliament.

The official's remarks followed Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's remarks earlier Wednesday that Japan is not considering immediately changing its Official Development Assistance (ODA) program for Thailand because of the crackdown.

Watanabe made the comments when answering questions at a panel session in the House of Councillors.

Officials said four government ministries concerned with formulating and implementing Japan's foreign aid program consulted Wednesday about aid to Thailand.

One official said Japan, which supplies over 70 percent of Thailand's aid from other nations, is yet to decide whether or not to suspend assistance as it is "still monitoring and analyzing the overall situation, including events to come."

By latest count, Japan disbursed 418 million dollars in ODA to Thailand in fiscal 1990, which began in April of that year.

Japan committed an additional 84.7 billion yen in official loans to Thailand in fiscal 1991. Figures for grants and technical assistance were not available.

The United States has suspended scheduled talks on a resumption of aid frozen after last year's coup led by Suchinda Khraprayun, whose elevation to prime minister last month sparked off the protests. It has also canceled joint military exercises.

Officials said the U.S. has not called on Japan to suspend its aid. They denied Japan was being soft on Thailand compared with the U.S.

The top ministry official played down remarks to reporters Wednesday by spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa, which sparked a minor controversy in the Japanese press.

Hanabusa said in part the process by which Suchinda became prime minister was "not illegitimate" and what Thai authorities have done in suppressing demonstrators "was aimed at restoring law and order."

No Immediate Change Seen in ODA

OW2005075192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan is not considering immediately changing its Official Development Assistance (ODA) program for Thailand despite a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Wednesday.

Testifying before the House of Councillors' special panel on peacekeeing legislation, Watanabe said he "cannot say how the situation is going to develop" after the killings of demonstrators by Thai troops.

His testimony came in response to a call from Jun Kioka of the Social Democratic Party for a review of Japan's ODA policy toward Thailand.

Moves toward democracy, basic human rights, and guarantee of freedom are among the key conditions for receiving ODA from Japan, although Tokyo has often applied different criteria for its aid to developing countries depending on its proximity, economic interests and other factors.

Watanabe observed that Thai demonstrators took to the streets frustrated with Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun's alleged failure to honor the results of the elections.

"The Japanese Government has conveyed its hope (to the Thai Government) to see a resolution through democratic procedures," he said.

Watanabe: Tokyo, Hanoi Positioned To Boost Ties

OW2005033392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told a senior Vietnamese official Wednesday that Japan and Vietnam are now positioned to rapidly improve their bilateral relations.

Foreign Ministry officials said Watanabe made the remarks in a 20-minute meeting with Hong Ha, who heads the Vietnamese Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Committee. Hong arrived Sunday for a weeklong visit at the invitation of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Hong invited Watanabe to visit Vietnam at an early date, telling him the Japanese foreign minister is well-known among the country's leadership for having actively promoted bilateral relations. Watanabe, an advocate of a resumption of full-scale Japanese aid to Vietnam, suspended in 1979, told Hong he wants to visit Vietnam, though he cannot say when.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said last Thursday he may ask Watanabe to visit Cambodia at an early date. It is expected that a trip by the foreign minister to Indochina would also take in Vietnam.

Watanabe told Hong that he has long called on the Vietnamese and Americans to overcome mutual animosities stemming from recent history to establish a basis for good ties in the future. He welcomed Vietnam's positive response to Japanese suggestions that Hanoi cooperate fully with Washington's efforts to clarify the fate of U.S. soldiers taken prisoner of war (POW) or gone missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam war, officials said.

Watanabe noted the United States, which has made resolution of the POW/MIA issue a precondition for normalizing relations with Vietnam, has highly appraised Hanoi's cooperation so far, including its acceptance of inspection teams. But he said Hanoi should not expect a sudden improvement in ties with Washington as it is a sensitive time in the political calendar, with the presidential elections approaching in November.

Officials quoted Hong as saying Vietnam is aware of the significance of the election season in the U.S. and promised active cooperation with that country on the POW-MIA issue will continue. He thanked Japan for interceding with the U.S. to promote the normalization process and said that a strengthening of Vietnam-Japan ties has in itself served to promote Vietnam-U.S. relations.

In talks Monday with Miyazawa, Hong was quoted as saying he expects the POW/MIA issue to be resolved by the end of the year. He also told Miyazawa that his government is seeking large-scale foreign investment for infrastructure projects.

Bill Enacted To End Fingerprinting Requirement

OW2005035692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan's parliament Wednesday enacted a bill designed to end fingerprinting requirements for Korean, Taiwanese, and other permanent foreign residents, a practice foreigners criticize as a human rights infringement.

The House of Councillors, in a plenary session, approved the Alien Registration Law revision bill, which had already cleared the more powerful House of Representatives in mid-April. All political parties voted for it.

The revised law, scheduled to take effect in January 1993, will eliminate the fingerprinting requirement for some 602,000 Koreans and Taiwanese in Japan, and about 43,000 other foreigners with permanent resident status, Justice Ministry officials said.

Photographs, signatures and family registration will replace fingerprinting as means of identification. The family registration system will contain information on parents and spouses living in Japan, officials said.

However, the fingerprinting requirement will remain unchanged for some 320,000 other foreign nationals who have lived in Japan for more than one year but who do not have permanent resident status.

The current law requires all foreign residents aged 16 years or above who stay in Japan for more than one year to have their left index fingerprint taken when applying for the registration certificates. Even under the revised law, both permanent and nonpermanent foreign residents will have to continue carrying the registration cards at all times.

The move to revise the law came against the backdrop of Tokyo's pledge to Seoul to abolish by January 1993 the fingerprinting requirement for Korean residents who have lived in Japan since before World War II, as well as for their offspring. Tokyo issued the promise in January 1991 during a visit to South Korea by then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

The Japanese Government introduced compulsory fingerprinting in 1952 through the enactment of the Alien Registration Law ostensibly to prevent illicit registration. Opponents have since been crticizing the requirement, describing it as a symbol of discrimination against foreigners, especially Koreans.

Some 300 foreign residents refused to give their fingerprints in 1955 when the government implemented the system. In 1985, nearly 7,000 foreigners living in Japan took similar action.

The Justice Ministry proposed last December eliminating the fingerprinting requirement for all foreign residents. But the government decided to drop the requirement only partially in the face of strong resistance from the National Police Agency. The police insisted on the necessity of fingerprinting for "security reasons."

In response to the government-proposed bill to revise the law, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest opposition force, submitted to the Diet an alternative bill in March, urging the abolition of the fingerprinting requirement for all foreign residents in Japan.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, in a move to appease the SDP, submitted a revised bill to the Diet in April along with two centrist opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party. As a result, the SDP voted for the bill and it was passed in the lower house on April 17.

The revised law newly allows imposition of a one-year prison term or a fine of up to 200,000 yen for foreign residents who refuse to give their prints. Another provision of the law stipulates that the penalty for foreign residents who fail to register changes of address with the Japanese authorities will remain as a fine of up to 200,000 yen, but offenders will no longer be liable to a one-year prison term. A transitional measure exempts from the fingerprinting requirements foreign residents who reach the age of 16 during the period between promulgation and enactment of the revised law.

The new law also contains a rider calling for appropriate steps to be taken for the complete abolition of the fingerprinting requirement five years after its enactment, so that its basic purpose will shift from the control of foreign residents to the provision to them of government services.

Bill Passed To Open NTT Stock to Foreigners

OW2005102492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo May 20 KYODO—The House of Councillors approved Wednesday a bill to allow foreign ownership of Japan's domestic telecommunications giant, paving the way for its enactment into law around summer this year.

The legislation will open stock of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), the former domestic telecommunications monopoly, to foreign investors.

Government officials said a new law governing the company's operations will be enacted around the end of August.

The new law will allow foreign investors to acquire up to 20 percent of NTT's total outstanding shares although the limit is set at one-third for other telecommunications companies, the officials said.

Foreign shareholders will be barred from the company's board of directors, they said.

The law also will allow the company to issue new shares to raise operating funds, the officials said.

Under the existing law, foreign investors are barred from owning NTT shares.

Vessel Fires on Fishing Boat Near Senkakus

OW2005081692 Naha NHK Radio in Japanese 0300 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Late last evening, in the open waters of the East China Sea, a fishing vessel from the Yamaguchi Prefecture was followed by a shipping vessel of unidentified nationality. The 11th Division of Naha's Maritime Safety Headquarters sent out a patrol boat to scout the waters close to the site of the incident.

At around 1350 GMT (2250 Japan local time) last night, in the open waters of the East China Sea, about 240 kilometers to the northnorthwest of the Senkaku Islands, the Gohomaru—an Amada Ihainawa [name as heard] fishing vessel of 47.2 tons belonging to the Koshigahama Fishing Zone [name as heard] of Yamaguchi Prefecture—was approached and followed for about 10 minutes by a small-sized vessel of unidentified nationality. Later, the small vessel departed to the northeast—no damage was suffered by the crew and ship of the Gohomaru.

According to Gohomaru crew members, the unidentified shipping vessel was following the Gohomaru at a distance of about 50 meters. Because of the night's darkness, the shape of the trailing vessel and the appearance of crew members could not be identified in detail. However, during that time, the sounds of machine-gun fire—thought to be warning shots—were heard by the crew members of the Gohomaru four or five times.

On receiving word of the incident, the 11th Division of Naha's Maritime Safety Headquarters dispatched a patrol boat to protect the Gohomaru and keep watch over the area close to the site of the incident.

This is the third time this year that such an incident has occurred, one of which involved the Panamanian S.S. (Runaboa), which received warning shots from an unidentified vessel in the same area last month.

Taiwan Liaison Office in Tokyo Changes Name

OW2005055392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Taiwan's liaison office in Tokyo, the Association of East Asian Relations, announced Wednesday it is changing its official name to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan effective the same day. The change follows efforts by Taipei's chief representative in Tokyo, Hsu Shui-teh, to enliven bilateral relations with Japan, which he claims have not kept pace with the rapidly developing economic relationship.

In Yokohama, the liaison office will be known as the Yokohama branch, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan, while the Osaka office will be called the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Osaka. In Fukuoka, the liaison office will be known as the Fukuoka branch, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Osaka, the de facto mission in Tokyo annnounced.

Taipei severed official relations with Japan immediately after Tokyo and Beijing established diplomatic ties 20 years ago.

Yaohan To Set Up PRC Production, Sales Base

OW2005115092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 20 KYODO—Yaohan Japan Co., a medium-standing Japanese department store operator, said Wednesday it will establish a production and sales base in China in partnership with a Chinese venture company.

The company, headquartered in Numazu, Shizuoka Prefecture, said a basic accord on the project was signed in Beijing on Tuesday with China Venture Technology International Corp. (CVIC).

CVIC is a semigovernment finance and high technology venture business with about 200 offices throughout China.

Yaohan said the new company will build facilities to produce shoes, cosmetics, ham and cookies of its own brand in major cities, including Shenzhen, a special economic zone in Guangdong Province, southern China.

Yaohan said it plans to build shopping centers in various Chinese cities in the future, enabling them to account for nearly 50 percent of the company's total sales in the 21st century.

The company moved its head office functions to Hong Kong in October 1989 as an initial step toward its advance into the Chinese market.

It opened its first sales outlet in Shenzhen last September.

Public Hearings on Peacekeeping Bill Scheduled

OW2005072492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—A House of Councillors ad hoc committee decided Wednesday to hold three separate public hearings next week on a bill to enable

Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join UN peacekeeping operations overseas, committee officials said.

The decision was made at a session of the special international peace cooperation committee of the upper chamber.

A central hearing will be held in Tokyo on Tuesday and two others in Osaka and Niigata Prefectures Thursday, the officials said.

The opposition-controlled upper house is [words indistinct] passage through the more powerful House of Representatives last December.

Holding a public hearing on the bill is a prerequisite for a vote on the bill in the upper house.

The country's No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), initially maintained that it is premature to hold such public hearings and that further deliberations on the bill are necessary.

But the SDP finally agreed to the proposal at the committee's board meeting Wednesday as the session confirmed that the committee will continue discussion of the bill after the public hearings.

The SDP opposes the bill, saying the deployment of troops overseas would trample the spirit of Japan's postwar Constitution, which bans the use of force as means of settling international disputes.

The chairmen of Komeito, the second-largest opposition party, and of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) have agreed to hold talks early next week on the peacekeeping bill, Takenori Kanzaki, chairman of Komeito's Diet policy committee, said.

To pass the bill through the upper house, the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have tried to reach a compromise with Komeito and the DSP.

SDP Disagrees With DSP on SDF's UN Role

OW2005111692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Chairman Keigo Ouchi failed to persuade Japan's largest-opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) to agree to support a government-proposed bill that would allow overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF), a senior SDP official said Wednesday.

DSP leader Ouchi and SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe met in the Diet building in an attempt to patch up the parties' disagreements on whether Japan should allow SDF personnel to be dispatched overseas on UN peacekeeping operations but the two leaders insisted on different views regarding the issue.

Following a meeting between Tanabe and Ouchi, the two top party leaders agreed instead that their parties should cooperate on areas they are able to patch up, SDP Secretary General Shigeru Ito told reporters.

In addition, the SDP and the DSP will ask the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to hold an urgent summit meeting with opposition parties to discuss the so-called UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill, as well as issues surrounding political reform and a tax reduction.

Japan's fourth-largest opposition DSP has tried to pass the bill through the opposition-controlled House of Councillors by amending it in cooperation with the LDP and Japan's second-largest opposition Komeito.

But the SDP has refused to support the bill and has insisted Japan should set up a permanent corps independent of the SDF to send nonmilitary, civilian personnel overseas to join UN missions.

Ito told reporters about future tactics to deal with the bill, saying the SDP will not participate in meetings among the LDP, DSP, and Komeito, which seek an amendment of the bill.

DSP Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa also told the reporters that the party will make every effort to let the bill pass through the upper house.

Yonezawa said the DSP hopes the SDP will not deliberately delay Diet deliberations to prevent the bill from passing.

The measure is currently pending in the upper house following its passage in the House of Representatives early last December.

The bill will become a law only after it is approved by both parliamentary chambers.

Parties Seek Bill To Reveal Politicians' Assets

OW2005131192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The ruling and opposition parties agreed Wednesday to pass a bill that would require all members of the Diet and prefectural assemblies, prefectural governors, and mayors of cities, towns, and villages to disclose their personal assets, the parties' officials said.

The bill, to be passed in the current Diet session which ends June 21, also would require members of municipal assemblies in the nation's 12 specially designated large cities to report their assets.

The agreement was reached in a working-level meeting of the political reform council, the interparty panel set up to discuss political reform to respond to public criticism of political corruption such as the Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money scandals.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and four opposition parties agreed that the bill would oblige politicians to report such personal assets as land, houses, deposits, securities, and golf club memberships within 100 days after they are elected to public posts.

The politicians' asset reports would be preserved for seven years, during which time the people would be granted access to them.

Since 1984, cabinet ministers have been required to make public their personal assets as part of government efforts to eliminate corruption. Since 1989 the reports have also included their families' assets as well.

Miyazawa Rules Out FY 1992 Supplementary Budget

OW2005125292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the Diet Wednesday the government is not considering compiling a supplementary national budget for fiscal 1992 to stimulate the domestic economy.

Miyazawa made the remark in the House of Representatives Finance Committee, responding to growing external calls for Japan to expand domestic demand by implementing a supplementary budget.

"It (the supplementary budget) is not under consideration at this stage," the prime minister told the session, ruling out the possibility that his government will work out another round of stimulus measures.

He also ruled out another cut in the official discount rate in the wake of a 0.75 percentage point reduction in the previous round April 1.

He said the government would consider new measures in the latter half of fiscal 1992 if necessary.

Miyazawa predicted the domestic economy will begin to pick up soon after hitting bottom in the April-June period of this year.

Mieno Predicts Steady, Undramatic Recovery

OW2005075092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0730 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor [BOJ] Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the recovery of the Japanese economy from the current slump will be a gradual and undramatic one, with inventory adjustment in the manufacturing sector lingering on.

Mieno reiterated at a press conference that he is expecting signals in fall to show that the ongoing inventory adjustment is nearing an end.

As the outlook for the end of stockpile slashing becomes clear in fall, the economy will get back on an upward path, he said.

"The economy is right on the track leading to noninflationary sustainable growth after fall," he said.

The central bank governor, however, stressed that he is not too optimistic about the business outlook.

Since the current slowdown is a process of the economy shifting to a lower gear of growth, "it is unlikely there will be a sharp upturn," Mieno said. "(The recovery) will come in a slow tempo."

Mieno said it is too early to pinpoint when the inventory adjustment would be over although reductions are, and will be, proceeding smoothly.

The BOJ head, however, said "capital stock adjustment in the manufacturing sector won't be over soon," because of the lavish investment in the past few years.

Mieno, however, added there are some bright spots in the nonmanufacturing sector.

Mieno went on to discuss the upturn of the yen against the dollar, saying, "the present currency market is moving in line with the G-7 statement at the end of April."

The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries, in a communique realesed after the meeting of their finance ministers and central bankers in late April, supported the yen's appreciation to cap Japan's growing trade surplus.

"There was a common acknowledgement among the G-7 countries at the end of April" that the yen should stablize in an upward direction, he said.

Mieno also repeated his position that Japan needs no additional fiscal or monetary stimulus to spur the faltering economy.

Responding to a question about the growing international calls on Japan to take additional measures to boost the economy, Mieno said, "we are watching the effects of the measures we have already taken as they will soon start producing results."

"We have not changed our stance" on the issue, he said.

Mieno also said bad loans are not posing any serious threat to the Japanese financial system.

While admitting the asset position of Japanese financial institutions has deteriorated due to the declines in stock and land prices, he said they have ample internal reserves built up during the boom years in the late 1980s.

Mieno also pointed to the brighter profit outlook for banks thanks to falling interest rates.

He brushed aside a financial times report that Japanese banks have 42 trillion yen to 56 trillion yen in bad loans. The newspaper said the figures were from a confidential BOJ file.

Mieno said the BOJ does not have such a file and that the figures depend on the definition of bad loans.

The FINANCIAL TIMES later carried a correction in response to BOJ's complaint about the story, saying the figures were not based on BOJ materials.

Official: Growth Target of 3.75% Unreachable

OW2005100792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—An earlier government target for annual economic growth of 3.75 percent in Japan is out of reach, a top Finance Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the Japanese economy is hamstrung by many factors limiting its growth.

The target for a new five-year economic plan, which is now being drafted, should be much lower than 3.75 percent, he said.

He said the tight labor market, the trend for shorter working hours, and environmental protection are the main restraints on growth.

Japan's growth potential is hampered by strong downward pressures, the official said.

He said further fiscal stimulus to spur the sluggish business conditions could ignite inflation.

On growing international calls on Tokyo to take additional measures to boost the domestic economy, the official said Japan has done as much as it can.

"Additional steps could well create inflationary pressures," because of the tight labor market, he said.

"We must fully assess the effects of the measures we have already taken before considering any more."

Industrial Output Reported Down 0.6% in FY 1991

OW2005072692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0704 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Japan's industrial production in fiscal 1991 fell 0.6 percent from the previous year's levels and shipments declined 0.2 percent on an unadjusted basis, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday in a revised report.

The year-on-year drop in output at factories and mines in fiscal 1991 ended March 31 was the first since fiscal 1986, when the figure marked a negative 4.8 percent, a ministry official said.

The official also said both production and shipments were below the previous year's levels for the first time since fiscal 1982, when the second oil crisis hit the nation's economy.

Inventories at the end of fiscal 1991 were up 7.0 percent from a year earlier.

The ministry also reported the nation's industrial output and shipments in March fell by a seasonally adjusted 2.6 percent from the previous month, and inventories declined 1.1 percent.

The March production drop was the sixth straight monthly setback following the 0.5 percent fall in February and 1.2 percent decline in January.

All the seasonally adjusted figures for the past year were recalculated in March using a revised index and correcting any possible calculation errors, the ministry said.

Directives on Stock Dealings To Be Reduced

OW2005075992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official told the Diet on Wednesday the ministry is studying a plan to reduce about 450 directives governing securities trading to 50.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the ministry's Securities Bureau, made the disclosure in testimony before the House of Representatives Finance Committee debating proposals for revising the nation's financial system.

Matsuno said 15 directives concerning brokerages' rights and obligations will be incorporated into law under the revision.

He said 60 other directives will be made into independent rules to be worked out by the Japan Securities Dealers Association.

In addition, he said 150 directives issued in the form of verbal notes will be abolished and 260 more will be consolidated into 50 directives.

Matsuno said the ministry is expected to complete the work by the end of June and implement it immediately.

Bill Passed To Create Stock Trading 'Watchdog'

OW2005114892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The House of Representatives Finance Committee approved a bill Wednesday to create a quasi-independent watchdog body to prevent questionable securities trading.

The officials said the lower house is to pass the bill at a plenary session Thursday.

The Finance Ministry said it hopes to inaugurate the watchdog, known as the securities trading inspection committee, July 1.

The securities committee was proposed by the ministry in the wake of a series of scandals involving securities companies that surfaced last year.

Many brokerage houses, including Japan's "big four," were accused of compensating select clients for their investment losses.

The committee, with a staff of about 80 financial experts at the ministry, will oversee securities trading to prevent scandals.

The ministry has also submitted legislation to the Diet to revise the nation's financial system.

Businessmen Ask Tokyo To Stress Housing Policy

OW2005075892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The government should put more emphasis on policies for housing, land, and prices instead of concentrating too much on reducing working hours, Japanese employers said at their meeting held Wednesday.

The Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren) called a regular general meeting, which dealt with the nation's new five-year economic plan now being studied by the government.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the body, said in the meeting that the government appears to be less enthusiastic on policies for housing, land, and prices than on working hours.

If the government is serious about improving a quality of life in Japan as it says, it should seek to resolve those problems, he said.

The government includes in the economic plan for fiscal 1992-96 a policy which would call for reducing working hours to an average 1,800 hours a year within the five-year term of the plan.

But Nikkeiren has opposed the policy. It says that shorter working hours would harm sound economic growth in the medium term, because Japanese companies' profitability is declining amid the still tight labor supply and economic slowdown.

Nagano said at Wednesday's meeting, "it is desirable to cut working hours to the level of the United States and Britain at 1,950 hours a year. Hasty reduction would invite higher (labor) costs and eventually harm economic recovery in Japan."

In order to realize the improved living standards the government is aiming at, it should bring down land prices by implementing policies to make better use of land, he said.

Consumer spending should also be encouraged by reducing the price gap between domestic and overseas markets, he added.

North Korea

Spokesman Notifies ROK on Flag-Hoisting Issue

SK1905155392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1525 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 19 (KCNA)—An Pyong-su, spokesman of the North side to the inter-Korean high-level talks, sent a telephone message to the South side's spokesman today in connection with the fact that the South Korean authorities are these days suppressing students who hoisted DPRK flags and taking this opportunity in insulting and slandering our Republic and further inciting confrontation between the North and the South.

It was a manifestation of the noble will to create an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity and achieve the country's reunification by united efforts in conformity with the new situation today that South Korean students held functions on campuses after hoisting the flags of South Korea, the United States and the DPRK, the message said, and continued:

A string of outbursts of the South Korean authorities contending that the North is a dialogue partner in the matter of reunification, but an "anti-state organisation from the legal point of view" and the DPRK flag is a "symbol" of "fratricidal war" are an open challenge to the North-South agreement and a deliberate act for aggravating confrontation.

Sternly warning the South Korean authorities for creating a new difficulty in the way of the talks, branding our side as an "anti- state organisation", the telephone message strongly urged the South side to apologize for its insulting remarks against the North.

If the South side suppresses students desirous of North-South reconciliation and reunification by invoking the "National Security Law" which already lost its meaning and continues its acts negating dialogue and reunification, not renouncing its past wrong stance of confrontation, it will have to bear full responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom, said the message.

Political Subcommittee Discusses Annexed Agreements

SK2005033692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Political Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held at Tongil House in our side's portion of Panmunjom on 19 May. The meeting was open to the public.

Paek Nam-chun, chairman of our side, made the first keynote speech at the meeting.

He expressed the belief that the agenda issues would be resolved in compliance with the spirit of the North-South agreement and with the unanimous expectations of all fellow countrymen at the Political Subcommittee meeting that day, which was being held for the first time since the seventh North-South high-level talks. He explained our side's position on discussing the basic issues.

He said that the most important matter that must be discussed and solved at the meeting that day was to work out an annexed agreement for North-South reconciliation, the first article of the North-South agreement, because this is a basic document which contains concrete measures for implementing and observing the reconciliation component of the North-South agreement.

He then referred to the problem where the sides are divided over the form of the annexed agreement. He pointed out that although the South side, unable to turn down our just assertions, came to the third meeting of the Political Subcommittee with annexed agreements, these agreements are drafts of five annexed agreements, one for each component, thus merely creating complexity in discussing the problems. He urged the South side first to reach a consensus on working out an agreement at the meeting.

Elaborating on the content of the annexed agreement on which the sides differed, he said what was important was to reasonably draft each paragraph in conformity with the demand of the North-South agreement and the spirit of national unity and to successfully reflect its content.

However, the South side's annexed agreement drafts not only greatly deviated from the three principles of national reunification and from the spirit of the North-South agreement but also contained many paragraphs showing reliance on outside forces and the pursuance of division, various facts were cited to prove this. He said that the South side's annexed agreement drafts are, in fact, blocking the implementation of overall agreements and intentionally creating complexity and difficulties on the road to reconciliation and reunification.

He said, however, our side was putting forward a new draft of the annexed agreement in which the draft of the South side was largely taken into consideration. Our side's new draft, composed of nine articles and 30 paragraphs, was so worked out as to take into account the interests of both sides and to strictly implement the reconciliation component of the North-South agreement and, furthermore, was oriented to reunification from every point of view.

Our side's chairman clarified our views on the joint committee.

Noting that there would be no big problem since the sides had agreed on setting up a single reconciliation joint committee at the seventh North-South high-level talks, he stressed that the only thing left to the sides was to settle the problem of what kind of a working council should be installed inside the joint committee.

Speaking next, the chairman of the South side acted as if there were differences in views between the two sides on the three principles of national reunification and repeated their argument for case by case agreement and case by case implementation. He claimed that to make a good atmosphere for the talks, the North should refrain from using the phrases splittist and dependence upon foreign forces and that it was unreasonable to insist upon the principle of a package agreement and simultaneous implementation. Thus, he put forward a single draft annexed agreement for observing and implementing the reconciliation component. However, it was merely a mechanical combination of the five former splittist draft annexed agreements.

Our side stressed that in order to have a good atmosphere at the talks, one should not create complexity and difficulties by putting forward issues not related to the talks nor should one twist the agreed documents. Our side cited various facts to prove that the principle of reaching a package agreement and effecting simultaneous implementation is what the sides agreed on.

Our side noted that although the South side came out with a single draft annexed agreement as urged by our side, there is no change in its content and it still preserves the design for freezing and legitimizing the division. The unnecessary mention of the names of the nations of both sides and of member states of the United Nations proves such design by the South side. Our side stressed that the South side's design is to remove the goals of reunification and to eliminate the reunification movement. To this, the South side attempted to make various poor excuses.

Summing up the talks, the chairman of our side noted that for progress in future talks, one should work out an annexed agreement draft faithful to the North-South agreement which was formulated on the basis of the 4 July joint statement and should make sincere efforts to bring one's draft close to the other's. He urged the South side to come to the next meeting after deeply researching our side's plan.

It was decided to have the fifth meeting on 9 June.

'New Pressure' for Nuclear Inspection Decried

SK2005063092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0940 GMT 19 May 92

[Dialogue between Chong Sung-kang and Choe Yong-hui, reporters for the Central Broadcasting Network, entitled: "Intolerable New Pressure for Nuclear Inspection"]

[Text] [Chong Sung-kang] As you know, the U.S., Japanese, and South Korean authorities are now inflicting on us very provocative interference in internal affairs and pressure in connection with the issue of nuclear inspection. Let us talk about this subject today, shall we?.

[Choe Yong-hui] Yes, let's do so. At the Third Session of the Ninth DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] held last April, deliberation was made on the proposal to ratify the nuclear safeguards accord signed between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and a historic decision to approve the proposal was adopted there unanimously.

In this connection, positive reactions are being made continuously in many countries of the world, further enhancing international confidence in us.

However, persons in some circles of the United States, including the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, are continuously spreading bias on our so-called nuclear weapons development. While doing so, they continue to put utterly unjust pressure on us, saying that they are considering such measures as aerial bombing of North Korea's nuclear facilities even after the IAEA's nuclear inspection is carried out.

[Chong] The Japanese authorities are also complicating matters and creating artificial obstacles, raising the nuclear inspection issue which has nothing to do with the issue of normalizing relations between the DPRK and Japan. Following suit, the South Korean authorities are also raving about our nuclear inspection. The U.S., Japanese, and South Korean authorities, which have long tried to put pressure on the republic in connection with the issue of ratifying the nuclear safeguards accord, are attempting to put new, unjust pressure on us, raving about our nuclear weapons development, even after the SPA approved it. This is far from tolerable.

[Choe] As is already well known to the world, it is the consistent position of the government of our republic to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone. Therefore, the government of the republic expressed its position of opposing the introduction of atomic weapons in South Korea at the 12th meeting of the SPA held in 1956, and made a momentous proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone in 1986. At the fourth North-South high level talks held in 1991, we made an emergency proposal to adopt a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The government of the republic joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985 to thoroughly embody its peace-loving policy to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone, and signed the nuclear safeguards accord last January as the principled demands, which it called for in connection with the issue of nuclear inspection, were realized. Then at the Third Session of the Ninth SPA held some time ago, we deliberated the proposal to ratify the nuclear safeguards accord and adopted a decision to approve it.

[Chong] Therefore, we submitted a list of nuclear facilities and the report on the initial inventory of nuclear material on 4 May, far ahead of schedule, from the aspiration to (?facilitate) nuclear inspection, as provided for in the nuclear safeguards accord. There is no change in the consistent position of the government of our Republic to faithfully carry out its duty pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The world publicly acknowledges that there are no nuclear weapons in the republic. The republic neither produces nuclear weapons nor feels any need to produce them.

The republic has no desire to wage nuclear confrontation with the large countries in the surrounding region. Furthermore, it is not conceivable to develop nuclear weapons which can destroy fellow countrymen. The republic is not in the position to determine whether nuclear weapons are still in South Korea or whether they have all been withdrawn. The serious worries of the republic, which has been subjected to the U.S. nuclear menace for over 30 years, are not removed even today.

[Choe] Nevertheless, our republic decided to receive nuclear inspection. This is the demonstration of the positive step of our republic which has been making sincere efforts to faithfully carry out the duty pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and of its volition to realize a nuclear-free peace zone.

The government of the republic repeatedly made it clear that it has no intention of developing nuclear weapons and that it is prepared to accept nuclear inspection under the condition where fairness is ensured. That the SPA deliberated and approved the nuclear safeguards accord was the unrefutable proof that showed the truthfulness of our consistent position that we mean what we say, as the government of our republic has already made it clear, not by words but by practical action. However, some persons are inflicting very provocative interference in our internal affairs and pressure on us even now. This is far from beneficial to our Republic's implementation of the nuclear safeguards accord.

[Chong] In connection with the issue of implementing the nuclear safeguards accord, the U.S. and Japanese authorities are vilifying and slandering the republic. We cannot but interpret this to be their intention to mislead the world opinion and plot to harm the republic to disable it from receiving nuclear inspection which is about to begin, laying an obstacle to the improvement of relations between the DPRK and the United States and between the DPRK and Japan.

Also the South Korean authorities are intentionally finding fault with us, imitating others' behavior. This proves that they are attempting to intentionally aggravate the situation in the country, to continue to seek a confrontation policy, idling away time, and to disrupt the implementation of the documents of agreement between the North and the South.

[Choe] In the international society today, no one has the right to encroach on the sovereignty of another country. If they recklessly attempt to force unjust claims upon others, they will face counter-attack from the people who defend independence. The U.S., Japanese, and South Korean authorities should see the situation squarely and act with discretion. The government of our Republic will never tolerate the unjust interference in its internal affairs and pressure in the future as well, and faithfully carry out its duty pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Agricultural Mechanization Efforts Detailed

SK1905220392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 19 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song has taught:

"As well as this dynamic irrigation campaign, our party also actively pushed ahead with the mechanization and electrification of agriculture and the greater use of agricultural chemicals".

An energetic work is under way in Korea for the completion of the comprehensive mechanisation of agriculture and greater use of agricultural chemicals and for the expansion of the achievements in irrigation and electrification which have already been carried out.

Irrigation Networks of Great Potential

The irrigated area was no more than 100,000 hectares before liberation.

Most of the land was rain-dependent. The irrigation of agriculture which began after the liberation of the country in August 1945 assumed a full-fledged scale after the cease-fire in July 1953.

In a matter of five years the large pyongnam irrigation works watering 45,000 hectares and many other irrigation setups were built to supply water to 236,000 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields.

The September, 1958, plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea decided to launch into a nationwide, all-people movement for bringing the irrigated area to 1 million hectares and roused the entire people in its fulfillment.

Through the work for the implementation of the decision of the plenary meeting, 377,000 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields were irrigated in a matter of six months and 91 percent of the entire paddy area was brought under irrigation.

More than 1,700 reservoirs including the Yonpung, Unpa and Sohung Lakes, upwards of 25,800 water pumping stations and irrigation canals extending 40,000 kilometers in total length have been built and rivers stretching 140,000 kilometers have been readjusted in the country.

In the 1980's and early 1990's, the lake of West Sea barrage storing thousands of millions of tons of water and 800 kilometers of waterways were built to link together the Taedong and Yesong Rivers and Amnok and Taeryong Rivers in a grand irrigation system.

The grand nature-remaking work was successfully completed to supply sufficient water to all the paddy and non-paddy fields in the bread baskets of the western region.

For Comprehensive Mechanisation

It was in the early 1960's when agricultural cooperativisation had been completed and industrialisation was making progress that the mechanisation of agriculture began going full steam ahead from scratch in Korea.

In those days the production of tractors and farm machines was boosted for the comprehensive mechanisation of agriculture.

Modern tractor production bases cropped up in many parts of the country, among them the gigantic Kumsong tractor complex and the "Chungsong" tractor factory.

Trailing farm machine factories made their appearance in Hamhung, Hyesan, Haeju and other places and farm implement factories and farm machine repair bases took shape in all the cities and counties.

With the massive supply of tractors and trailing farm machines to the rural districts every year, nearly all the farm work such as tillage, rice-seedling plucking, rice transplanting, harvesting, thrashing and spraying of chemicals and fertilizers have been done with the help of machines.

The number of the tractors serving agriculture reached 7 in the plain area and 6 in the intermediary and mountainous areas, that of trucks 1.5 and that of the rice-transplanting machines 6.1 for each 100 hectares of the arable land.

With the mechanisation of agriculture climbing to a high stage, the farmers have been freed from toilsome labor and grain yield has been high every year.

Electrification Carried Out, Chemicals Undertake Toilsome Work

The electrification of agricultural work was carried out with success towards the end of the 1960's.

Electricity is used in such farm work as water pumping and thrashing and the source of heat for drying and processing agricultural products and treating seeds.

The electricity supplied to agriculture today adds up to 2,500 million kwh a year now.

Chemicals are extensively used in agriculture.

The state fully meets the domestic [word indistinct] chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals by building their production bases in Hungnam, Chongsu and other areas.

The amount of per hectare application of chemical fertilizers averages 2 tons in paddy and non-paddy fields.

Weeds are mostly killed by chemicals.

South Korea

No Agreement Reached on Mutual Nuclear Inspection

SK2005081492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0758 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea made no progress Wednesday at the second working-level meeting on mutual nuclear inspection.

They will meet again May 23, a week before the deadline the two sides have set themselves to decide an inspection regime.

South Korea demanded an explanation for reports that Pyongyang has produced plutonium in experiments and is building a radiochemical laboratory that will ultimately serve as nuclear reprocessing facility.

Such a facility would be a violation of the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the South Korean delegates told their North Korean opposite numbers.

The North Koreans said, as they have done on previous occasions, that they would show all of their facilities to inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) later this month, and the experiment did not violate the joint declaration because it was solely for research purposes.

Attempts to compromise on the text of the inspection agreement failed due to North Korea's insistence on distinguishing between nuclear weapons and bases, and nuclear facilities and materials.

South Korea's proposal divides the regime into regular and challenge inspections.

The South Koreans proposed that they first discuss inspection guidelines on site selection, information exchange, composition of inspection teams and other details.

The North Koreans demanded the two sides work simultaneously on the guidelines and on adopting a separate protocol for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone.

New Stance on North Nuclear Labs Considered

SK1905133292 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 May 92 p 2

[Text] The government is considering excluding reprocessing laboratories and uranium enrichment facilities which fall below a certain level from prohibited facilities as specified in the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They will exclude these laboratories if North Korea includes the term "special inspection" in mutual nuclear inspection regulations between the North and the South.

The government will consult relevant ministries and the United States on an acceptable safety range of reprocessing facilities and uranium enrichment facilities.

Assuming that the government position has not been finalized and that there are contradictory arguments among government organizations, a relevant government official on 18 May said: It is possible that a certain reprocessing facility cannot produce even a single nuclear bomb with extracted plutonium for more than 100 years. Therefore, if the nuclear inspection is thoroughly carried out, the possession of such reprocessing facilities may as well be allowed.

He also said: The reprocessing capacity of "radiochemical laboratories" under North Korean control should be confirmed through first-hand inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and us. He avoided mentioning whether the reprocessing facilities, which North Korea has, can be classified as acceptable. To define the allowable capacity of reprocessing facilities, a separate North-South agreement should be adopted and a precondition is required to consolidate a guarantee that this technology not be used for manufacturing weapons. The forcible inspection called "special inspection" should be included in inspection regulations without fail.

In an interview with ROK reporters in Beijing on 17 May, North Ambassador Yi Sam-no argued that since North Korea's "radiochemical laboratory" will serve as a laboratory for peaceful purposes, it can not be scrapped, raising doubts concerning forcible realization of the joint declaration on denuclearization. Government action on this issue will be carefully monitored.

Another relevent official said: Although its capacity is classified as only a laboratory, allowing the existence of the reprocessing facility will result in a de facto invalidation of Article 3 of the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, threatening the denuclearization declaration. He added that he opposes allowing the laboratory as does the United States.

'50,000' Nationwide Demonstrate Against Government

SK1905132792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1304 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—About 50,000 students and citizens staged largest anti-Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] demonstrations this year in 22 cities across the country Tuesday, claiming that the governing party should no longer stay in power.

The protests were called by the National Alliance for Democracy and Unification, the nation's largest umbrella dissident group, to coincide with DLP's national convention, which nominated party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam as its new presidential candidate.

About 49,000 riot police were deployed in Seoul and other major cities to block street demonstrations. The dissident group's bids to start large-scale rallies in cities were mostly checked by the police.

The alliance charged that the DLP has neglected people's welfare by abandoning itself to an intra-party power struggle. "We will continue to struggle along with the people for democratic reforms and establishment of a democratic government," a statement said.

It called for an immediate holding of mayoral and gubernatorial elections, the dissolution of the Agency for National Security Planning, legalization of Chongyojo (National Teachers' Union) and enforcement of the real-name financial transaction system.

Their demand also included the abolition of the National Security Law and withdrawal of the government-led total wage system.

Police used tear gas to disperse 2,000 students who gathered in Sangdo-dong, Seoul, to attempt a surprise call at Kim Yong-sam's house. Some 10,000 students from 32 universities staged hit-and-run demonstrations in downtown Seoul until late in the night, often clashing with riot police.

Similiar protests were reported in Kwangju, Pusan, Ulsan and other major cities.

Kim Yong-sam Interviewed on Presidential Candidacy

SK2005093192 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 19 May 92

[Interview with Kim Yong-sam, Democratic Liberal Party presidential candidate, by Pak Tae-sok, Korea Broadcasting System anchorman, at the party headquarters via television linkup from the studio—recorded]

[Text] [Pak Tae-sok] How are you?

[Kim Yong-sam] How are you?

[Pak] First of all, I congratulate you on being elected presidential candidate.

[Kim] Thank you.

[Pak] Would you tell us how you feel about your election today as presidential candidate of the ruling party, compared to your election as presidential candidate of an opposition party five years ago?

[Kim] I was not prepared in many respects at that time. First of all, I had been banned from politics until the end of June 1987. I had not been able to carry out political activities for almost 10 years. The opposition parties were not prepared. Also, unfortunately, they were divided. So, I can say that I ran for president without any preparations for the election. This time, I was nominated as presidential candidate when I, of the ruling party, had prepared myself and had time to prepare myself for the future. Therefore, I think today's circumstances cannot be compared to those at that time.

[Pak] I think that the just-finished competitive election to select the presidential candidate, the first ever in a ruling party, did not take place in a festive mood but fell short of the expectations of the people who have been watching the election process. What do you, as candidate Kim, think of the election process so far?

[Kim] Because it was the first ever in a ruling party, the competitive election may have caused some problems. I think that in any political action, procedures are important, but the most important is the result. Generally speaking, we have passed a very important political test, which is very meaningful, and I take pride in this, even though I cannot say everything was satisfactory.

[Pak] It has been learned that the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] will take punitive measures against candidate Yi Chong-chan, who rejected the competitive election. With the presidential election to follow, do you have any plan to accommodate candidate Yi Chong-chan and his supporters?

[Kim] I think people may have different views even within a party. Therefore, I am thinking of accommodating even comrades who have differing views in order to do important work for the future. I think that our DLP's presidential candidate must win without fail, not only for our party but also for our country's future. To that end, the most important is for all of us to be united into one. This will return the people's support.

[Pak] Today's competitive election is a mere preliminary match. What policies will you present in the presidential election, the main event, for the DLP to regain office?

[Kim] I cannot elaborate on all the policies today. I have mapped out policies in some fields and will map out policies in other fields and present them to the people. As I said at the convention, our most important political goals are to complete democracy, achieve a second economic leap, and achieve North-South reunification, which is our 70 million fellow countrymen's earnest desire.

[Pak] The Unification National Party elected party President Chong Chu-yong as presidential candidate, and the Democratic Party will elect its presidential candidate next week. What do think the presidential election later this year will be like? Which combination of candidates will be the most favorable to your chances for election, candidate Kim?

[Kim] It does not matter who will run from opposition parties. I, along with our comradely party members, want to receive the people's judgment. And, I am confident that we will win against anyone.

[Pak] You were nominated as presidential candidate and executive chairman of the party at today's convention. Are you planning to continuously perform your duty as executive chairman until the presidential election?

[Kim] I will handle this matter in my consultations with President No Tae-u, who is also the president of our party, when we discuss the execution of state and party affairs.

[Pak] Thank you for giving us an interview.

[Kim] Thank you.

Friction Between DP Factions Escalating

SK2005073792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0355 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] postponed a preparatory committee for its national convention Wednesday amid escalating friction between its two factions.

The faction, led by co-leader Yi Ki-taek, called a meeting of chiefs of district chapters for Wednesday afternoon to demand "a guarantee" from the other faction for "a free election" of the party's nominee for president.

Yi and Kim Tae-chung, the other DP co-leader, in addition to Rep.-elect Han Yong-su have announced their intention to run for the party's presidential nomination at the May 25-26 national convention.

Yi's faction was also to demand the election of the same number of party Supreme Council members and the election of the presidential candidate after the election of Supreme Council members.

In addition, Yi's faction again urged the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) faction, led by Kim Tae-chung, to consult with its factional leaders on the party leadership lineup following the presidential election.

The Democratic Party was formed through a merger of Yi's Democratic Party and the PPD last September.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Yi Ki-taek said he firmly opposed election of the party's presidential candidate and its Supreme Council members at the same time. If the PPD faction insisted on this point, he said, he would not take part in the election of the presidential nominee.

Since the Democratic Party was formed through a merger, Yi said, it should elect eight Supreme Council members—four each from the two factions.

Kim Tae-chung, meanwhile, met with his close aides Wednesday to select four out of nine PPD-faction candidates for Supreme Council members.

Elsewhere, Han Yong-su indicated that he would not participate in the election for the party's presidential candidate and said he would announce his position on the issue Thursday after consulting with his supporters Wednesday afternoon.

Government Unveils Policy To Stabilize Prices

SK2005103492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—The government decided Wednesday to help stabilize prices by checking price movements at service establishments and by restricting the use of disposable utensils such as chopsticks by restaurants.

Price movements at service establishments could be monitored electronically with the help of the companies that issue credit cards, which some 30 percent of service industry customers are said to use.

The government also plans to control prices of foodstuffs purchased by restaurants and eateries while encouraging government and company employees to take staggered summer vacations so that supplies of agricultural and fishery products to cities are not affected by mammoth traffic jams during the vacation period like last year.

Moreover, the government will reduce the number of houses and apartments it planned to build in the second quarter of this year to 97,000 units in order to cool down the overheated construction industry. The second-quarter figure will bring to 260,000 units the total houses and apartments to be built in the first half of this year.

The decision was made at a meeting of the Price Control Board, chaired by Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su.

The meeting also decided to release 50,000 to 60,000 sacks of state rice to stabilize rice prices, which have risen recently. It will also increase the amount of imported beef to 450 tons a day from the present 350 tons and pork to 100 tons from 30 tons.

The government will designate any service establishment that conforms to its guidelines a "model company" and allow a discount of 30 percent on water charges. They will also be exempt from tax investigations.

Defense Ministry To Request 17% Budget Increase

SK2005033092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 May 92 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry has tentatively decided to request a defense budget of 9.84 trillion won (12.5 billion) for fiscal 1993, up 17 percent from the current fiscal year's 8.42 trillion won (10.76 billion).

This is far below the 30-percent increase sought by the three branches of the Armed Forces, but above the government guideline announced last year of 12.4 percent.

Defense observers here anticipate a head-on collision between the Economic Planning Board (EPB) and the ministry over defense spending.

Last year the ministry demanded a 24.7 percent increase in the defense budget for fiscal 1992 but saw it slashed sharply due to strong EPB opposition.

Yi Sang-ok on DPRK-PRC-ROK Relations

SK2005020792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0057 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea-China diplomatic normalization will bring North Korea out of its isolation and contribute to peace and stability in Northeast Asia, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Wednesday.

China could exert pivotal influence on North Korea to abandon its nuclear arms development and seek realistic inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation, he said.

"Lingering of the cold war on the Korean peninsula and North Korea's continued isolation certainly are not desirable for South Korea, North Korea and China," the foreign minister said.

Yi, addressing a breakfast seminar on the new world order and South Korea-China relations, predicted that Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization would serve as catalyst in bringing Pyongyang out of its isolation to join the new order in Northeast Asia.

Normalization would come "naturally" from realistic development of bilateral ties through exchanges of people and material, Yi told the seminar.

"It goes without saying that the prerequisites to North Korea's participation in the new world order are abandonment of its nuclear arms regime and improvement in realistic inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation," he said.

"China could play a pivotal role to lead North Korea to choose such a line of action, as it did last year during Seoul's and Pyongyang's joint entry into the United Nations.

"But we do not want to isolate North Korea in the process of seeking South Korea-China relations," Yi said.

North Korea's trade with China was 600 million U.S. dollars last year, compared to South Korea's 5.8 billion dollars with China, he pointed out.

"Seoul-Beijing trade is expected to reach 9 billion dollars this year, and if this turns out to be true, China will become our third largest trading partner after the United States and Japan," he said.

BOK Advises Diversifying Exports to S.E. Asia

SK2005020992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea can keep or expand its exports to Southeast Asian countries only by diversifying, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Wednesday.

Korean exporters should focus on making small volumes of various kinds of products aimed at Southeast Asia, which had emerged as one of the major markets for Korean goods, the central bank said in a report on trends in trade with Southeast Asian nations.

The bank advised Korean firms to specialize in a few areas such as basic materials, machinery and parts that have a great impact on other sectors and that have enduring competitiveness.

The firms also should move to Southeast Asian countries their labor-intensive production operations and simple assembly processes, it said.

Such direct investment in Southeast Asia would help ease the rivalry between Korean firms and their counterparts in the region while serving as a basis for detour exports to industrialized countries, the bank said.

Korea's exports to Southeast Asia account for 19.3 percent of its entire exports, compared with 17.2 percent to Japan.

During the first quarter of this year, sales to Southeast Asian countries nearly amounted to that to the United States, Korea's no. 1 export market (3.95 billion U.S. dollars). Korea recorded deficits in trade with almost all other regions but Southeast Asia.

Korea's exports to Southeast Asia grew 33.4 percent last year from the previous year and 33.5 percent in the first quarter of this year over the same period last year.

However, shipments to Southeast Asia amounted to only 19.3 percent of korea's total exports, whereas it was 23.1 percent for Japan and 26.3 percent for Taiwan.

The bank predicted that members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would increasingly eat away at Korea's export market owing to direct investment by Japan and the newly industrializing countries.

Expanding direct investment would bring up not only such labor-intensive industries as textiles and toys, but also the electric, electronic, petrochemical, steel and other capital- and technology-intensive industries, the bank said.

After encroaching upon the Korean export market, the bank warned, Southeast Asian countries would try to expand into Korea's domestic market.

Petroleum Company Signs Contract With Vietnam

*SK2005020092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0117 GMT 20 May 92*

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—The Korea Petroleum Development Corp. (Pedco) has signed a production-split contract with the state-run Vietnamese oil company Petro-Viet, entering the active stage of oil exploration there, a Pedco spokesman said Wednesday.

Pedco will prospect for oil in the 11-2 exploration mining area in southeastern Vietnam, 50 kilometers from the Big Bear oil field.

Bloc 11-2 measures 150 meters deep by 3,431 square kilometers and the contract is for 25 years, including five years of prospecting, the spokesman said.

Bloc 11-2 has not been explored yet, but was appraised to have a high possibility of economically viable reserves of recoverable oil after seven adjacent blocs were identified as having oil and five were found to have the potential for oil.

Under the production-split contract, Pedco, leading a Korean consortium for the Vietnamese oil development project, will take half of any oil that is extracted from Bloc 11-2.

Results of Beijing Merchandise Exhibition Reported

*SK2005105092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0910 GMT 20 May 92*

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—An estimated 10.64 million U.S. dollars in commodity deals were clinched at the Korea merchandise exhibition in Beijing last week, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. said Wednesday.

Representatives of some 2,600 Chinese companies visited the exhibition, held under South Korea's national flag and using its formal name, the Republic of Korea.

They consulted on purchases of 140.84 million dollars of goods and showed a deep interest in Korean-made electronic products, textiles, chemical raw materials and cars.

3 PRC Firms To Establish Seoul Branches

*SK2005102192 Seoul YONHAP in English
0822 GMT 20 May 92*

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—The Trade and Industry Ministry gave three Chinese companies approval Wednesday to establish branches in Seoul.

The China National Metals & Minerals Import & Export Corp. and two others brought to eight the number of Chinese businesses with Seoul branches, a Ministry spokesman said.

The Ministry would make it easier for Chinese firms to set up branches in Korea and seek to increase the number of branches of Korean companies in China, he said.

Shandong Foreign Trade Corp., one of the three given the green light, is the first general trading firm owned by a provincial government.

The government's plan aimed to expedite the two-way economic exchanges based on the concluded trade and investment guarantee agreements, he said.

The Chinese Government has allowed nine Korean enterprises and the Korea Foreign Trade Association to open 13 branches.

Compromise Reached With Japan on Kurils Fishing

*SK2005104692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0905 GMT 20 May 92*

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—Seoul and Tokyo have reached a compromise in a dispute over South Korean fishing rights near the Kuril Islands, government officials said Wednesday.

South Korea, Japan and Russia will hold final consultations late next week in Moscow to give Seoul a new fishing zone in exchange for a disputed area, the officials said.

Korea and Russia signed a fisheries agreement in September last year. The two countries decided on an annual 430,000-ton fishing quota in a committee meeting in January.

In separate consultations, fishing company associations, in line with the agreement, signed a subsidiary pact where Korea was allowed to catch 70,000 tons near the four islands in return for a fishing toll.

Fishing was officially to start this month, but Tokyo's strong protest led the Korean Government to hold back the fishermen from entering the zone.

Japan also fishes in the disputed area for a fee, and insisted Korea's vessels be given other zones. The Korean Government first turned down Japan's request to reconsider its agreement with Russia, but apparently changed its mind.

Tokyo insists it owns the Kuril Islands, which it calls the Northern Territories, and thus the Seoul-Moscow fishing accord violates its territorial rights.

Korea's Fisheries Administration proposed that it be given a more northeastern area of the fishing zone in exchange for the disputed area, and both Japan and Russia accepted the proposal, the officials said.

The three countries will draw final lines on the allowed zones at next week's meeting in Moscow, the officials said.

* Article Examines Security Planning Agency

922C0146A HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 27 Mar 92 p 19

[Article by reporter Kang Chol-won: "People Behind the Power in the ROK: the Agency for National Security Planning"]

[Text] Late last December, immediately after the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks were over, Democratic Party co-chairmen Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek and other DP assemblymen visited the general situation room of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] HQ building in Imun-tong at its invitation.

The situation room is the place where the NSP intercepts television and radio broadcasts emanating from various countries and receives reports from its worldwide network of operating stations. What drew the greatest attention of the visiting assemblymen was the radar screen installed in the operation.

Projected on this screen were movements of aircraft and ships departing or entering North Korean airports and harbors in great details in the form of moving dots. The assemblymen came to know from the screen the fact that not many aircraft were flying in the skies of North Korea. An NSP official explained that the worsening fuel supply situation must be causing a great disruption to aircraft operation in North Korea.

According a concerned NSP official, North Korea's crude oil import this year is one-twelfth of last year's figure, and that North Korea's controversial sale of Scud missiles to Syria was made in exchange for crude oil as part of its effort to secure its oil supply.

The most striking change in the NSP since the installation of the Sixth Republic is the intensifications of its operations related to North Korea. This change is taken as a desirable one in view of the fact that the NSP is the government's intelligence arm.

Needless to say, the NSP's North Korea-related operations have a manipulative character to it stemming from security consideration for the present establishment. Signs were abundant everywhere indicating that particularly in choosing the timing for the exposure of a North Korean internal trouble and in interpreting an internal change in North Korea, the "security interests" of the present establishment were given major consideration.

NSP employees working in the North Korea division said that they feel less frustration than those working in other internal affairs-related divisions, however, because they believe that they are doing what an intelligence organization is supposed to do. As a matter of fact, most of the employees of the North Korean division feel antagonism against political operations conducted by the divisions dealing with internal affairs.

Referring to the arrest on 21 April of Han Ki-yong (37) and three other employees of the NSP anti-communist investigation bureau on the suspicion of having distributed malicious handbills against Hong Sa-tok, the Democratic Party candidate, a medium-standing officer of the North Korea division said that this case brought "the greatest shame ever to the NSP since its founding."

The same officer said: "The incident in which as many as four employees of a state intelligence organization were caught on the spot by opposition campaign workers while distributing malicious propaganda materials was a shameful case which has no parallel in any intelligence organization in the world. In this incident, the intelligence agents had their identification cards seized by the campaign workers. This case raises the question of the quality of the intelligence organization." For this reason, the officer said that when his colleagues in his office heard the news about the incident, they did not believe the press report that the culprits were intelligence agents.

The NSP collects information from these sources: (1) open reports by media, (2) information supplied by overseas stations, and (3) scientific methods of collection using high-tech.

Open information contained in media reports are the most extensive source of the three.

Intelligence authorities often say that "openly available information accounts for 90 percent of all information collected, the remaining 10 percent bought with money." This statement straightforwardly explains the nature of the information collecting operation.

The NSP analyzes most of North Korean publications and broadcasts and stores the data in the computer. In additions, North Korea-related materials published in various countries are also subject to NSP analysis. Information collected in this way form an important basis in assessing the internal situation in North Korea and predicting future changes there.

Open information does not contain secret information which intelligence organizations need, however. For instance, information on whether or not North Korea is developing nuclear weapons, or information on any change in the North Korean power leadership is hardly obtainable from open reports.

This kind of key information is obtained mostly through agent-based intelligence operations. The most delicate part of agent-based intelligence operations which requires maximum care is the hiring of intelligence agents. The NSP chiefly uses overseas Koreans visiting North Korea as its agents.

An intelligence office said: "In the early days when the North Korean authorities began to permit overseas Koreans to visit North Korea, we had to be very cautious in hiring agents. But after the number of overseas Koreans visiting North Korea exceeded 1,000, some even volunteered to serve as an agent." According to him, the greatest incentive for anyone to volunteer is the monetary reward.

The number of people whom visiting overseas Koreans meet in North Korea is limited, however, and these travelers are not much of a help in obtaining sensitive information.

Information on the conditions of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and communication for North Korean inhabitants accounts for the bulk of information visiting overseas Koreans can supply. For instance, when they return with photographs of the daily meals spread on the tables in North Korean homes, analysts can glean information on the food situation in North Korea by looking at the kinds of cereals, the variety of side dishes, and so forth, on the table.

Intelligence officials disclosed that highly important pieces of secret information which are urgently needed are sometimes obtained through the embassies in Pyongyang of countries having close ties with North Korea.

When the whole country was sizzling in November 1986 over the reported death of President Kim Il-song, the NSP tried, with the help of an intelligence organization of a friendly country, to ascertain the veracity of the report through the embassy in Pyongyang of that friendly country. This intelligence organization is said to have informed the NSP that the streets of Pyongyang were quiet and that there was no particular movement around the presidential palace. According to concerned intelligence officials, it was thanks to this and other information that unlike the Ministry of National Defense, which took the rumor about Kim Il-song's death at its face value, the NSP said it was skeptical about the rumor.

A certain intelligence officer disclosed that the NSP has obtained through its agents the written report prepared by North Korea's Workers Party immediately following the adoption of the North-South agreement at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks in order to explain the reasons for adopting the agreement to its cadres. Officials concerned say that the NSP's acquisition of the written report in question, which was intended for circulation only among a limited number of cadres, attests to the high level of excellence which the NSP's agent-based operation has reached.

The capability of NSP's agent-based operation was also clearly demonstrated in the field of information on nuclear development.

An intelligence officer asserted that it was through agent-supplied information that the NSP has confirmed reports about North Korea's nuclear development to a considerable extent. Included in this information is the substance of a dialogue exchanged between highly placed North Korean general officers on the subject of nuclear development.

Intelligence officers said that President Kim Il-song never admited the nuclear development plan, however, even on a private occasion.

When asked about nuclear development at a meeting with his intimate foreign guest, President Kim is said to have given a stereotyped reply, "we will drive the nuclear weapons of the U.S. forces out with our non-existent nuclear weapons." For this reasons, the NSP at one time entertained the suspicion that North Korea's nuclear development might be being pushed through some "channel" unknown to President Kim.

Information furnished by the NSP's worldwide network of operating stations accounts for a significant portion of its agent-based operation. By the network of operating stations is meant NSP agents dispatched to our embassies and consulates overseas. The order of priority for information these agents collect is: first, information on North Korea; second, information on their host countries; and third, information on overseas Koreans. Prior to the changes in East Europe, information on East Europe was next to information on North Korea in importance. But, recently, Europe was excluded from the coverage list.

To their embarrassment, overseas NSP officers from time to time receive orders to collect information on any wrongdoings of embassy staff members. Overseas NSP officers also get involved in special operations in addition to their duty to collect information. One of these operations is the protection of the safety of North Korean defectors. When they receive information that a North Korean overseas resident or traveler is seeking asylum, the concerned overseas NSP officer designates the place of contact to the would-be defector. In case the host country is friendly to the ROK embassy, the officer brings the would-be defector to the ROK embassy. In case the host country is not friendly, the NSP officer designates a roundabout route or personally take the would-be defector to a friendly country.

In this case, the ticklish problem is how to ascertain the wish to defect is real or phony.

If a crowded street is designated as the place of contact and the would-be defector should change his mind at the crucial moment, the NSP officer would easily become the target of North Korea's accusation of kidnapping. If the plan goes awry, the roundabout route will be exposed.

According to an intelligence officer, when Yi Chang-sun, a former North Korean judo champion, defected last July, the NSP at one time suspected that his desire for asylum was phony because his behavior looked somewhat dubious.

Yi attempted to talk to our officials on the train en route to Paris although the North Korean officials tried to hold him back. The bustling Paris railway station was designated as the place of contact, but he did not show up there. Subsequently, the NSP watched his movement closely and reached the conclusion that he was unable to appear at the appointed place because the North Korean officials got wind of his suspicious behavior and tightened up their surveillance on him. Thereupon, the NSP designated another place of contact and succeeded in taking him to Korea.

Another intelligence officer confided that in the early 1980's a North Korean agent attempted to kidnap a South Korean diplomat, but with the help of a friendly country, a South Korean agent kidnapped this same North Korean agent and brought him to South Korea.

The NSP asserts that since the latter half of the 1990's at the latest there were no cases of forced defection, however, and this assertion seems true.

The most controversial of agent-based intelligence operations is direct infiltration. When asked whether it is possible to send agents into North Korea to collect information, NSP officials always say "No." In North Korea, everyone, young or old, goes to school or goes to work in the daytime, and each time one wants to travel, he needs a permit. They say that it is impossible for an agent to infiltrate that kind of area to collect information, and that there is no need to take that kind of risk at a time when the number of overseas Koreans visiting North Korea now exceeds 1,000.

Regarding this matter, an intelligence officer said: "We cannot say that there is absolutely no direct infiltration. But if there are any cases of direct infiltration, the NSP has nothing to do with them."

Evidence that before 1970 at the latest, attempts at direct infiltration were made has turned up in many places, however. Recently, a number of people testified that they or their relatives had directly infiltrated North Korea. Some of these people stayed for only a week, some others were missing after being dispatched on a prolonged mission.

A newly emerged field in activities directed at North Korea is psychological warfare operations. Psychological warfare came a long way during the period in which the two opposing intelligence organizations, namely, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States and the State Security Committee (KGB) of the former Soviet Union were engaged in fierce intelligence warfare. In view of this experience, one may say that the ground has been readied for psychological warfare to develop between the North and South Korean intelligence agencies.

Intelligence officials disclosed that shortly before the June 1989 Pyongyang world youth and student festival in June 1989, the NSP deliberately issued phony wireless orders to send armed guerrillas into North Korea and mobilize ships, throwing North Korea into confusion for a while. According to concerned NSP officials, there were clear signs that at that time North Korean military units near the armistice line and in coastal areas got so panicky that they rushed about in confusion, hurriedly issuing orders to move troops from place to place.

A very interesting aspect in the NSP's psychological warfare operation is use of Japanese media. Korean news media from time to time carry news about important developments in North Korea by quoting Japanese reports. These are some examples: reports confirming North Korea's nuclear development through foreign satellite pictures; reports that part of the money earned from the pinball parlor business run by the General Association of Koreans in Japan [GAKJ] is funnelled into the political funds of the Japan Socialist Party; and reports that the personal lives of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il are very much corrupt. Also included in this category are reports on political developments in South Korea. Japanese media carrying such reports are limited to only a few. To some extent, the following testimony of an information officer gives an answer to the question of why Japanese media are used:

He said: "Japan is a spy kingdom which has no laws controlling spies. In addition, there are so many newspapers, broadcasting companies, press agencies, and other media that all kinds of news are flying about. That is why Japan is becoming the most suitable country for the NSP's disinformation activity. Intelligence organizations from time to time find it necessary to protect the source of information or float information whose source is unclear. It is quite natural that the NSP should have an established channel just in case such need arises."

Cambodia

Sihanouk Receives USIDCA's Roskens 15 May

BK1905083192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, granted an audience to Mr. Ronald Roskens, director of the Washington-based U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency [USIDCA], at the Khemarin Palace in the afternoon of 15 May. His Excellency Charles Twining, U.S. permanent representative to Cambodia, was also on hand.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk graciously welcomed the two guests in a most cordial and warm atmosphere. Mr. Ronald Roskens stressed that he was extremely delighted to have what was his second personal audience with HRH the prince during the past 30 years.

Akashi Briefs Sihanouk on 'Fruitful' Visit

BK1905081792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, granted an audience to His Excellency [H.E.] Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, at the Khemarin Palace on 16 May. H.E. Akashi was most warmly and fraternally welcomed by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi briefed HRH the prince on the outcome of his recent visit to Australia, Japan, and New York City. He stressed that, though short, his visit was very fruitful.

Khmer Rouge Warns UN on Cease-Fire Accusations

BK2005014092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] The representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in the Mixed Military Working Group on 18 May has written to General Michel Loridon, deputy head of the military wing of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

1. The representative made clear that the accusations that the NADK breached the cease-fire in Bavel are totally fabricated and distorted;

2. The representative accounted for the concrete situation as follows:

I. At 1015 on 14 May, the Phnom Penh faction dispatched 430 troops of the Battambang provincial army from Battambang Town, then stationed 230 of them at Chamka Vea Village, 100 at Kon Khla Village, and 100 at Kdei Kraom Village;

II. At 0710 on the morning of 14 May, Phnom Penh soldiers from Division 6 fired 16 shells with 85-mm cannons on the NADK outposts. The shelling continued until 1500 on the same day. At the same time, 300 Phnom Penh troops also mounted a three-pronged offensive on NADK positions: the first prong made up of 100 soldiers crossed Mongkol Borei River to attack the NADK from the east; the second prong consisting of 100 elements from Chamka Vea Village crossed Mongkol Borei River to attack the NADK from the south; and the third prong with 100 soldiers from Kon Khla Village launched onslaught on the NADK from the south.

In the fighting, the Phnom Penh troops fired several shells on NADK positions. That being the case, at 1500 the NADK forces were forced to retaliate for self-defense by shelling Phnom Penh positions in Bavel

III. From 0900 to 1300 on 15 May, Phnom Penh troops fired many shells on NADK-controlled areas, killing three farmers and wounding many others.

The aforementioned report was already presented by the Pailin-based NADK representative to the UNTAC forces in the township.

The Party of Democratic Kampuchea regards the military movements and campaigns and shellings by the Phnom Penh faction on the PDK-administered areas as serious breaches of cease-fire. As such, the UNTAC in the future should not accuse any factions without prior elaborate investigations.

Urges UNTAC Neutrality

BK2005034292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 May 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Neutrality, Neutrality, Neutrality! Some Members of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, Please, Be Neutral"]

[Text] I. The UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] represents the United Nations, which is the top world body. Wherever the United Nations is present, its role is supposed to settle conflict there. And when the United Nations maintains and plays a neutral role which constitutes its key role in implementing all decisions and agreements correctly, it will always be welcomed and supported by the countries and people in conflict as well as the countries and people in the region. The United Nations can also win strong support for its assignment regardless of the size of the difficulties of the mission.

II. As for the UNTAC, its task to settle and end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia is both easy and difficult. However, the difficulty is not as serious as in other regions, and the task is instead found to be easier than that in other places, because:

1. An accord is well defined;

2. The Cambodian nation and people want to execute every term of the Paris accord correctly; and

3. The overwhelming peoples and countries in the world want to see the terms of the Paris accord correctly implemented so as to enable Cambodia to recover peace, independence, and neutrality.

Difficulties are ensuing from the Vietnamese and their accomplices obstinately objecting to the accord for the purpose of furthering their invasion and occupation of Cambodia. If we compare the forces supporting the accord to its opponents, we can see that the advocates of the accord's implementation are dominantly prevailing. As such, the remaining problem is that the United Nations, in its capacity as the UNTAC, should join forces with the Supreme National Council [SNC] to play its absolutely neutral role in correctly and meticulously executing the accord, including the verification of the Vietnamese aggressors' presence according to the well-defined agreement. If the UNTAC can do so, all problems can be resolved completely and nothing will be difficult.

III. The request and aspiration of the entire Cambodian nation and people and the wish of the overwhelming countries the world over should be taken into consideration. The majority of the UNTAC members have the goodwill to correctly apply every term of the accord:

1. To verify the Vietnamese withdrawal;

2. To control and demobilize the four Cambodian parties' armies; and

3. The UNTAC should play its role as the unique source of authority in Cambodia.

Should those issues be resolved, the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia can be settled all along. However, if foul play is continued with the intent of sabotaging and eliminating the resistance forces, specifically Democratic Kampuchea—a victim of the Vietnamese invasion—the Cambodian nation and people as well as the majority of the peoples and countries all over the world can never agree.

The UNTAC constitutes a need of the Cambodian nation and people—it was needed before the existence of the accord and, especially during the execution of the accord. Nevertheless, some UNTAC members who are taking sides are requested to become neutral and observe the content of the Paris accord with correctness.

Launch of Second Phase of Cease-Fire Hailed

BK1505102992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 May 92

[PRACHEACHON editorial, date not given: "An Important Step in the Implementation of the Cease-Fire in Cambodia"]

[Text] Following the 17th meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group on 9 May, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, military commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], publicly announced the beginning of the second phase of the Cambodian cease-fire to become effective at 0800 on 13 June 1992. This is a very significant step in the process of implementing the Paris accords and will make possible the creation of a secure environment favorable to repatriating refugees, holding free and correct general elections in Cambodia, and the reconstruction of Cambodia. At the same time, they are the best means to deal with the repeated cease-fire violations of the Khmer Rouge. Particularly, in the very near future, it will immediately solve the problem in Kompong Thom, which the UNTAC military commander has vehemently blamed on the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge have violated the cease-fire and caused the situation there to become more serious and tense.

The second phase will open the stage for strengthened control over the cease-fire, marking minefields, starting troop disarmament, the cantonment of forces in designated areas, and demobilizing the Armies of the four Cambodian factions by 70 percent. That the launching of the second phase is possible shows the efforts and determination of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] and UNTAC with the good cooperation of the Supreme National Council, especially of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government. The SOC is the host faction bound by duty to be responsible for providing and creating all conditions to facilitate discharging major tasks in the implementation of the accords.

From the outset, the SOC faction has always strived to implement the accords. They have been extremely restrained vis-a-vis the violations of the Khmer Rouge faction. They have closely cooperated with UNAMIC, UNTAC, and other Cambodian factions with the sole intention of promoting the application of the accords to end the bloody and protracted war of more than 20 years and to bring peace, national reconciliation, and progress back to the nation and people.

To contribute to creating the necessary conditions for the second phase, the SOC Ministry of National Defense has called on officers and troops on leave or convalescing at home to report back to their units urgently. They are also to bring their personal effects with them before 15 May to register in the roll calls in preparation for the UNTAC inspection. It is most regrettable that so far only the SOC faction has the true goodwill, as it has most sincerely implemented the accords and lived up to

whatever that has been promised and agreed on. The other factions, especially the Khmer Rouge, have never displayed any intention of cooperating in the most significant operation for the peace of the nation and people. Their actions were the original obstacles that forced a delay in scheduling the second phase for 1 June 1992.

Our Armed Forces and people warmly welcome and hail the announcement of the launch date of the second phase of the cease-fire. As in the past, we solemnly vow to continue cooperating with UNTAC and other Cambodian factions to successfully and effectively carry out all major and important tasks during this phase. This is to create and promote conditions for preparing free and correct elections on schedule for the sake of building an advanced and prosperous Cambodia. We appeal to all other Cambodian factions to sincerely and seriously keep all their promises in the interests of our nation and people. We appeal to UNTAC to take strict measures against all actions that might hamper and obstruct what is historically the largest UN operation in Cambodia.

Hun Sen Tours Kompong Cham Districts 13-15 May

BK1905110392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] During his visit to the people in Kang Meas and Srei Santhor Districts, Kompong Cham Province, from 13 to 15 May, Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and also vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], assured the local population that as those who are moral-minded and responsible for the future of the people, we will continue to unconditionally help solve all the needs of the people in the economic, cultural, humanitarian, and religious fields in the country since we have been building these sectors from scratch after toppling the regime that represented the danger of the past. We are not going to use our promises as preconditions to put pressure on our people.

Mr. Hun Sen talked with tens of thousands of our Buddhist monks and people who warmly welcomed him during his tour. Addressing the people in Kang Meas District, Mr. Hun Sen stressed that we always respect and implement the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia while the Cambodian opposition factions intentionally violate it. In some remote areas of Kang Meas District, the Khmer Rouge continue to rob and bully our people. Therefore, we must work hard to protect the lives and property of the people. He also urged the officials at all levels in the two districts to raise their sense of responsibility concerning the future destiny of the people, daring to admit and improve past shortcomings and spreading the truth among the people so that they can make correct decisions in their daily life and social dealings.

Mr. Hun Sen also reiterated the support for the national reconciliation mission of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is a neutral, non-partisan entity. He reaffirmed that our CPP and Cambodian people have solemnly voiced support for Prince Sihanouk's presidential candidacy.

India's permament representative Chandra Mohan Bhandari also accompanied Mr. Hun Sen on this tour, bringing with him 150 metric tons of rice as gift of the Indian people to the people of Srei Santhor District. The primary school of Khleang Skar Commune, Srei Santhor District, Kompong Cham Province, was named the Indo-Cambodian Friendship School.

KPNLF To Hold Congress in Phnom Penh 21-22 May

BK1805050692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 May 92

["Communique of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front—read by Khuon Khemarin"]

[Text] Communique: The Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] is happy to inform Cambodian compatriots that the KPNLF, under the leadership of His Excellency Son Sann, will organize the KPNLF's second congress on 21 and 22 May 1992 from 0800 [0100 GMT] at the Olympic National Stadium to officially announce the creation of the political party of the KPNLF which could be named the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [kanakpak preacheathippatai serei niyum preah puthasasna] [BLDP].

This KPNLF congress is held with security provided by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces and the security forces of the State of Cambodia side and of the KPNLF.

Because this date is a historic one for the KPNLF, we are happy to invite all KPNLF members, new members of the BLDP, and Cambodian people in general who are sympathetic to the KPNLF, to attend this KPNLF national congress. For those wishing to attend, please contact the office representing the KPNLF to receive invitation cards.

Kompong Som Name Change Discussed

BK1905064592 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0403 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 19—Prince Norodom Sihanouk went Monday to the southwestern Cambodian port city of Kompong Som to restore its former name, Sihanoukville, dropped more than 20 years ago, an official source was quoted by AFP as saying.

The city, 300 kilometres (190 miles) southwest of here, was renamed Kompong Som after the prince was ousted in a coup in 1970 by the pro-American General Lon Nol.

Prince Sihanouk returned here in November after 13 years in exile to lead the Supreme National Council, which is to represent Cambodian sovereignty pending general elections in May 1993.

Sihanoukville is Cambodia's largest port, and was formerly a favorite holiday resort among Phnom Penh nobility.

Laos

Party-Government Delegation Leaves for PRC

BK1805170292 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] A delegation of the Office of the Party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, led by Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the party Central Committee and head of the office, left for a visit to the PRC on the afternoon of 17 May. The delegation is scheduled to stay in the PRC for 14 days.

During the visit our Lao delegation will hold working meetings and exchange experiences with the Chinese sectors concerned in Beijing. It will also tour Fujian, Hainan, and Yunnan Provinces.

Annual Meeting on Cooperation Held With Japan

BK1505104292 Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 15 (KPL)—The second annual meeting between Lao and Japanese economic cooperation officials was held in Vientiane yesterday to review grant aid cooperation provided in the past years by the Japanese government to Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], and to discuss future economic assistance and cooperation between the two countries, which were expected to increase annually.

The Lao side to the meeting includes Deputy External Economic Relations Minister Mrs. Khempheng Phonsena, the head, and representatives from some ministries namely foreign affairs, economy, agriculture, education, health, and information.

Over the years, the Japanese Government has already completed many aid projects for Laos involving mainly socioeconomic development, while those underway are km-6 irrigation project, telephone project, central TV construction project, and some others.

Seminar With UN on Population, Environment Opens

BK1505104692 Vientiane KPL in English 0951 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 15 (KPL)—A seminar on population and its effects on socioeconomic development and environment jointly organised by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance (MEPF) and the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) was opened here at Lan Xang hotel.

In his address to officially open the workshop, MEPF First Vice Minister Mr. Khamsai Souphanouvong indicated the attention the government of Laos has attached to the issue which links to the well-being of the population and environment. In this connection, he enumerated some policies such as those involving public health, education among others.

In the same note, he thanked the various friendly countries and international organisations, particularly the UNFPA, for having assisted Laos in population surveys and the national census, the outcome of which was crucial for the planning of the country's socioeconomic development.

Ms. Ameerah Haq-Perera, UNDP [UN Development Program] resident representative, and UNFPA representative, in her address, touched on the issue of the present high annual population growth rate of 2.9 percent and high fertility rate (6.8 children per woman of reproductive age). In this regard, she was pleased to see "the government's pragmatic policies" which have given attention to birth spacing accepted in 1988, among other adverse consequences it was to "relieve the burdens on mothers." She made a point that the UNFPA would assist Laos to formulate a comprehensive population policy and to develop a viable and effective population programme.

The population of Laos was estimated to be four million in 1989.

Taking part in the discussion of the seminar chaired by Mr. Boutsabong Souvannavong, were high ranking officials from 14 ministries, representatives of three local mass organisations, international organisations such as UNDP, UNICEF, SIDA [Swedish International Development Authority], JICA [Japanese International Cooperation Agency], French embassy's cultural counsellor.

Among foreign guests who presented their papers were: Dr. Carl M. Frisen from the Institute for Population Studies, Chulalongkon University of Bangkok; Dr. Khairul Bashar, executive director, Asian Institute for Development Communication, Kuala Lumpur; Dr. Tan Boon Ann, regional advisor on population policies, ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific].

The workshop starting this morning will last till Saturday 16 May.

Assembly Vice Chairman Returns From Thailand

BK1805103892 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 18 (KPL)—Thongsing Thammavong, vice chairman of the People's Supreme Assembly (PSA) and head of the Organisation and Administration Improvement Committee of Laos, and his delegation returned home on May 16 from Thailand ending his 16-day working visit to that neighbouring country.

During the visit, the Lao delegation called on and discussed with Athit Urairat, president of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, the improvement of the state mechanism and the administrative power. The delegation also visited production bases in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Nakhon Phanom.

The visit was aimed to contribute to the development of the neighbourly ties and cooperation between the two countries in addition to the exchange of lessons on improving of organisation and administration.

Greeting the delegation home were among others Somlat Chanthamat, head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee (LPRP CC), and members of the PSA Standing Committee.

Philippines

Ramos Plans To Review Bases Treaty

HK2005021392 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 May 92 pp 1, 21

[Text] Administration presidential bet Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday that he will modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), develop the geothermal project for additional power and democratize the distribution of wealth if elected as successor of President Aquino.

Ramos said that some of the long-term projects of the outgoing administration will be pursued but there will be modifications in other programs.

"There will be a number of changes, but we have to retain certain projects which are the long-range programs on which the Philippines has invested so much and which are very viable and well on the way to completion," said Ramos, citing as an example the geothermal project of the Aquino administration.

"Some programs must continue to be implemented, others must be altered and, certainly, we should solve the problems of poverty and power deficiency," he added.

Ramos expounded on his views about an assortment of issues when he was interviewed by Lou Simmons of the SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS and Pons Philip of LE MONDE the other day at the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden.

Ramos pointed out that while Mrs Aquino was able to restore democracy and establish the institutions of political freedom and civil rights, it will be the job of the next President to secure more political stability and economic growth through people empowerment.

The former defense secretary said that modernization of the AFP will primarily center on the acquisition of new ships and patrol boats for the Navy "to protect the country's maritime borders" and bolster the government's anti-smuggling drive.

Ramos said the Air Force must likewise be modernized, citing the latest acquisition of a squadron of multipurpose jets from Italy which were purchased after the Italian dealers agreed to get 50 percent of the foreign exchange requirements through countertrade.

On the question of hidden wealth, Ramos said that cases pending in court against those charged to have illegally stashed away public funds will be vigorously pursued in the same manner that efforts will be directed toward pinning down the mastermind of the celebrated murder of Sen Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983.

The Lakas EDSA-NUCD [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] standard bearer stressed the need to improve and intensify the tax collection effort, quickly adding that he will not introduce new tax measures but raise the level of tax collection as effectively as carried out in Malaysia and other ASEAN countries.

On the effects of the abrogation of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases treaty, Ramos said he will immediately order a review of the entire spectrum of the bilateral relations between the two countries within the first 100 days of his office.

He expressed fears that, unless the Philippines cooperates with other countries, the Filipinos will face more problems than expected.

Ramos asked: "How can we survive in this region against all these new challenges unless we mutually support each other?"

Ramos Holds Lead; Hailed by Christian Democrats

HK1905121592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos continues to maintain his lead in the presidential race based on the most recent unofficial results from the Media Citizen's Quick Count. Ramos is leading by 461,000, ahead of his closest rival Miriam Defensor Santiago.

The following are the results from the presidential race:

Ramos	2,002,903
Santiago	1,542,515
Cojuangco	1,504,021
Mitra	1,339,629
Marcos	924,807
Salonga	815,337
Laurel	177,915

In the vice presidential race:

Estrada	2,236,933
Fernan	1,785,834
Osmena	1,302,176
R. Magsaysay	1,060,887
Pimentel	728,826
V. Magsaysay	272,638
Kalaw	59,808

The top 24 senatorial candidates are Sotto, Angara, Revilla, Herrera, Maceda, Romulo, Alvarez, Mercado, Shahani, Gonzales, Ople, Guingona, Macapagal, Webb, Rasul, Coseteng, Lina, Tolentino, Roco, Osmena, Biazon, Aquino, Tatad, and Tanada.

Meanwhile, the Christian Democrats International [CDI] has extended an early congratulations to leading presidential candidate Fidel Ramos. According to CDI Secretary General Andre (Louie), the CDI early congratulation was based on the direction of the Media Citizen's Quick Count's canvassing, where Ramos is leading. The CDI believes that Ramos' leadership will bring about new ideas in the Philippines'quest for democratic, economic, and social progress.

The CDI is an international organization composed of 60 Christian Democrat parties through out the world, including the Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats.

Four Candidates To Uphold Results

HK2005033292 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 20 May 92 p 1

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Four of the seven presidential rivals have reaffirmed their signed commitment to the Commission on Elections [Comelec] to "uphold the results of the elections."

Ramos Mitra of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats], Jovito Salonga of the coalition between his Liberal Party and PDP-Laban [Democratic Party of the Philippines-National Struggle] and Salvador Laurel of the Nacionalista Party renewed their word at separate meetings with the administration candidate and front-runner, Fidel Ramos, who initiated them, according to Ramos' camp yesterday.

It said efforts were being pursued to get the three others to do the same—Miriam Defensor Santiago of the People's Reform Party, who was running second; Eduardo Cojuangco Jr of the Nationalist People's Coalition, running third, and Imelda Marcos of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan [New Society Movement].

Ramos first met with Mitra last week, at about the time Santiago began casting doubts on unofficial vote counts, even as she led in them and only 5 percent of the vote had come in.

The meeting with Salonga was held Sunday and with Laurel Monday.

Rafael Alunan, spokesman for Ramos' camp, said Ramos had two basic things in mind. First, he wanted assurances from his rivals that the "will of the people would be respected;" more specifically that they would all try to prevent fraud in the canvass.

Second, he wanted all of them to abide by the convenant they had signed before the Comelec to "uphold the results of the elections."

Alunan said the meetings had been kept "very private." Not even he had known about them until they were over.

Other sources said the meeting with Mitra had been arranged through one of his important supporters, Edgardo Espiritu, the newly resigned Philippine National Bank president, and was held in his Makati condominium.

The meeting with Salonga took place at his house in Pasig, and that with Laurel in the house of Pangasinan Congressman Jose de Venecia, a Ramos leader, in Dasmarinas Village in Makati. Former Congressman Macario Laurel accompanied Laurel.

Salonga confirmed the meeting but expressed surprise that it had been divulged. "It was supposed to be a one-on-one confidential meeting," he said.

He refused to say anything more about it and preferred that "any details come from them (Ramos' camp)."

De Villa, Quick Count Official Discuss Polls

HK2005093392 Quezon City ABS-CBN 2 Television in English 1430 GMT 18 May 92

[Studio interview with Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Raul Locsin, vice chairman of Media Citizens Quick Count, by host journalists Antonio Abaya, Nelson Navarro and Melinda Quintos de Jesus on "Options" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Abaya] Welcome to "Options." For a while we thought that the May 11 elections were the best thing that happened to us. Now it turns out it's another can of worms. The same charges of fraud, cheating, etcetera are flying left and right. So what else is new? Well, the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] for one and post-election coup rumors for another. To tell us about this tonight, we have Secretary of National Defense Renato de Villa and Raul Locsin, publisher of BUSINESS WORLD and vice chairman of the MCQC. Mr. Secretary [De Villa], with your permission, we would like to start with the MCQC. Raul, MCQC is besieged with protests and complaints about the slowness of the process. Can you explain why and what can be done about it?

[Locsin] Well, we are mandated by law to do a count on the fourth copy of the municipal canvass, and right now there are still municipalities that are canvassing.

[Abaya] Up to now? One week after the elections? Why?

[Locsin] Yes. Specially Metro Manila. You know, while you canvass these things, you have to enter about 180 names and some 200 items, and then the observations of the people who protest. So, you [words indistinct] a copy of this canvass until the canvass ends.

[Abaya] How soon do you expect to finish your job? I mean there is a May 24 deadline.

[Locsin] Well, by Sunday we expect to probably get about 90 percent.

[Abaya] That is six days from now. In the meantime, some people are alarmed and suspicious that this delay is giving other people the chance to manipulate the results. What are the chances of manipulation at this stage?

[Locsin] I think it is very difficult to manipulate because you have all the parties there in the canvass. All of them are present.

[Abaya] Raul, some of the candidates have sort of lost interest in this final stage because they feel they have no more chance of winning. So maybe some of their poll watchers have gone home and abandoned their posts.

[Locsin] Well, that is not MCQC's fault.

[Abaya] I understand that. But the situation is that it gives this feeling of insecurity on the part of the candidates that...

[Locsin, interrupting] Well, we have all the political parties present at the national tabulation.

[Abaya] At the national tabulation, but not at the municipal level, and that is where the tension was.

[De Jesus] But why would the political parties just feel that they can drop off and yet issue complaints about the fairness of the process? To my mind, this is something that is very clear and I think that some media commentators tried to make very clear that this was going to happen. It would take a long time, that the physical process itself would be painstaking, and that the MCQC, because of the levels at which you were covering the counts, would naturally be slower than those who are going on partial vote data. Maybe you need to explain what this different levels of counting that the MCQC system involves.

[Locsin] Well, the MCQC gets data from the precinct tallly forms prepared by our own volunteers, and this is certified to by the board of election inspectors. Then this is sent over to the national tabulation centers and we start tabulating this. We also can get the advance certificate of election return which, in effect, is the first summary of the Precinct Tally Form [PTF]. We have that certified by the treasurer and we also tabulate that. The last thing that we do is we get the certificates of canvass, which we again tabulate. These things are self-correcting in the sense that if we get enough certificates of election returns, this (corroborates) the existing precinct tally forms.

[Abaya] So each entry has a serial number based on the PTF. The earlier returns are eliminated by the more complete returns that are coming in.

[Locsin] The certificates of canvass are the last things, which is what we are mandated to collect by law.

[De Jesus] Raul, do you feel that the procedure set up or the system on which the MCQC is based could have been shortened? I mean did you take too many safeguards against fraud for which you are now being charged, actually?

[Locsin] I don't think there is fraud. It is impossible to cheat there. We all have the representatives of all the political parties there. And the system is self-correcting. But when you speak of new parameters, you are speaking now of something like how many thousand positions, contested by 170,000 candidates, probably this reality never sunk into the minds of the....

[Abaya, interrupting] I think I will cite a specific case which is causing some of the jitters here—National Capital Region. Every precinct in the capital region is within a one-hour trip to the headquarters of the MCQC, and yet one week after the end of voting, we have tabulated only 13 percent. It is the lowest total nationwide for all the regions. Why?

[Locsin] Well, that is correct. We even get returns as far as Batanes coming in. But you know, you only have 14 precincts in one municipality in Batanes. The average municipality, number of precincts in the National Capital Region come up to about 2,000.

[Abaya] But I thought you were allowed by your charter to get this out from the precincts even if these are advance election returns, which are covered by later data. But apparently it is not happening in the National Capital Region.

[Locsin] What happened here is in the National Capital Region, because of the number of municipalities and precincts, the counts were longer. You yourself can see that. It takes about roughly 25 hours, assuming that we don't eat or sleep. Then we have the media coming in and reporting all this the first 48 hours. That was very good. Such is the interesting job of media. These layer of people watching performers check and balance sort of thing. But we also had to operate, we lack the manpower and we had to work with certain organizations. Some organizations had also other interests. They also had to feed certain radio stations and so that put us.... [Locsin changes thought] you know, they submitted this to us and after that's out that becomes meaningless to us because the advance certificate of election returns now come in. And our computer programs are so designed that when this comes in, they stop these tally forms from coming in. We operate on a running total so as to prevent double counting.

[Abaya] Raul, my concern here is that why was the MCQC given this monopoly [words indistinct] when obviously it could not provide the proper service. I mean, considering the kind of group that you have to operate with. You have a situation where the media was fast-counting in the initial 24 hours and then extend it over to you and it's ground to a halt. Why was the media prevented from continuing the count? In the United States, as early as two hours after the closing of polls they can already project the winner.

[Locsin] That needs a correction. First of all, the MCQC is a media group. It is not one media. It is a full effort.

[De Jesus] I think the whole point is a quick count. And people cannot understand why a quick count has to take a week, two weeks, three weeks.

[Locsin] You said that if media counted that it would have counted it faster. I don't think that. It would not have been possible because even the largest network that covered it I think only covered the selection of the precincts.

[Abaya] And there was a lot of duplication. A reporter will come in the morning reporting from that precinct. Another reporter would come later on and report the same.

[Locsin] The problem really is that we have this huge, incredible business at hand. Synchronized elections, Tony, is just organized madness. At the beginning, it was a theoretical exercise. But suddenly the reality was there.

[Abaya] Now that we have a problem with the slow quick count, why not allow the individual networks to resume their unofficial tally?

[Locsin] What will they count, Tony?

[Abaya] They can go to the precincts, to the municipalities where they left off and get....

[Locsin, interrupting] What will they get? Do you think they would have the money to [words indistinct]?

[Abaya] So you think it is useless now for the individual....

[Locsin, interrupting] It's useless.

[Abaya] In fact it is a slow process.

[Locsin] It is not really a very slow process because when we made the presentation before the Comelec [Commission on Elections], we did project this and this is what we came up with.

[Abaya] What makes MCQC different from Namfrel [National Movement for Free Elections]? Why was Namfrel apparently faster than MCQC?

[Locsin] Because Namfrel was counting on the precinct level, but it did not have to count official votes.

[Abaya] So, Namfrel was handling precinct-level returns, not municipal canvassing?

[De Jesus] Namfrel was not given the fourth copy of the canvass returns.

[Abaya] General [De Villa], there have been again rumors of a coup. This is like a song that keeps coming back. We think that there is a special liking for coups. What is the latest reading of the military of this so called coup?

[De Villa] Well, Tony, I know that you are watching it. I read your column and many people are really a little bit apprehensive about the post-election scenario. The reason for this is that if you recall there was an Oplan Noel [Operation Plan No Election]. That came from the ultraright group, the underground right. This was nipped in the bud, but then the elements who are involved in the planning of this are still in the underground.

[Abaya] And I understand there is this Oplan No Proc [No Proclamation]?

[De Villa] Yes. But most of this, I think, are psychological operation in nature. The effort being done is propagandizing, agitating, a few bombs here and there to create a drama of it, and hopefully to create the scenario of a major disturbance.

[Navarro] You're saying that they really don't have the muscle to organize a coup that would succeed.

[De Villa] There is really no muscle as of now. But we do not deny that they have the following, as I have said in the past.

[Navarro] But they have the capability.

[De Villa] They have the capability to plan. It takes only one man or a small group to do that. They have the capability to agitate. They have the capability to launch and sustain propaganda. And then finally they have the capability to undertake certain limited disturbances. But the matter to seize power is something else. It is completely out of question.

[Abaya] Do they have enough warm bodies to seize power?

[De Villa] We do not believe so, Tony. We believe that they have been trying to sell the idea but there are no takers now.

[De Jesus] But Mr. Secretary, there should be what Tony described to be a looming political crisis. If those elements grow in the next weeks or so, for example, disgruntled candidates....

[De Villa, interrupting] What we are looking at carefully is really the political muscle that will go into the picture and the armed component of the Army, the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement]. If you will recall, all of their coup attempts in the past failed essentially because first, the action taken against them by the Armed Forces and the PNP [Philippine National Police] and more importantly, the second aspect is none of these coup attempts was supported by the people. There was no support from the people. Therefore, they all failed. What they are trying to do now is watch very carefully the situation. If they can generate enough public support....

[Navarro, interrupting] But concretely, the case of Mrs. Miriam Santiago has been a lot of warning that if she goes on in the kind of trajectory that she has ventured into and links up with the RAM, this is a potentiallly dangerous situation. What are the chances of this combination coming up?

[De Villa] I do not think that this will really materialize to dangerous proportions, because first of all, I think that time is providing the cooling process. As we go further down the line, I think temptation cools off, emotions will settle down and the legal processes will take over. On the other hand, on the part of the RAM, I do not think that the political group of Mrs. Santiago would just accept a combination just like that. It is too dangerous for any group to accept this kind of combination.

[Abaya] Mr. Secretary, Melinda referred to my column about a looming political crisis. Let me put that in perspective. I was writing about this looming political crisis because of a flaw in our system. We have a multiparty system but there is no mechanism for a run-off, as there is in many countries in Europe and Latin America, in which the problem of a minority president is co-opted [as heard] by the run-off mechanism, so that the emerging winner has 50 percent or more of votes. But in our situation there is no run-off mechanism. And two of the leading candidates, by coincidence, have following in the military. Mr. Secretary, is it not possibly leading to a confrontation between these two groups of military powers?

[De Villa] First of all, I do not think that these two groups will be able to co-opt the military. But there could be some sympathy that could be assumed. But only sympathy. There could be a few who will sympathize, but by and large I am very confident that the military will stay solid and will perform its functions and duties according to its constitutional mandate. I am very confident on that, and I wish to assure our people that with the liberty to restructure now in the military and all the reforms that we have instituted, I do believe that this military can be depended upon by the people to preserve our Constitution and to preserve the democratic system.

[Navarro] A while ago, Mr. Secretary, you were saying that everybody expected the process of the canvassing to be slow....

[De Villa, interrupting] Correct.

[Navarro] In a series of meetings among the different media representatives, the Comelec officials and the representatives of the candidates themselves said that because of the inordinately large number of candidates running, and the fact that it was both a national and local election, the first time that it ever happened in Philippine history, that necessarily it will have to be a very unusually slow kind of process.

And you were saying also, Raul, that you're really up to target. But its problem really is that fast is not slow, quick is not fast enough. In the midst of these anxieties, what do you think has been the role of the candidates? They pledged themselves to abide by the rules of the game, and yet we find out in the first hours of the canvassing that they were already prematurely proclaiming themselves winners. I think this was the.... [Abaya changes thought] a lot of the tensions that were generated or excited about the count were due to this.

[De Villa] Well, I saw the signing of that covenant of peace, and I think that a great majority of our people applauded the candidates in doing that act, and are now expecting these candidates to abide by their honor.

[Navarro, interrupting] Let us point out those [word indistinct] as far as the peaceful and orderly conduct of elections. I think everybody [word indistinct] agree that this is one of the most peaceful and orderly elections ever conducted in this country. I think where everything bogs down was in the canvassing.

The perception....

[De Villa, interrupting] This is only my opinion, but I think that we have been used to having fast reports coming to the public mind through the media. Because in the past, we only had at one time national elections, at another time, local elections. And then we had the information pick-up from the precinct level. Now we have, I think, the most complicated and the biggest election process that we have...

[Navarro, interrrupting] With primitive technology at that. You know, hand-counting and all of that.

[De Villa] In my own home town, when I asked the people back home are you finished already with your counting, they said that they were not even half-way. Using my frame of reference, in the old election, by the following day it's over. You know already who is the mayor, you know already who is the vice mayor. And when I asked them, it was about more than 24 hours later. They said that we are not even half-way. I said, what's wrong? They said that there was nothing wrong, they were just doing it slowly because [word indistinct] it.

[Abaya] Raul, may I go back to the MCQC process that is under your command. I think that one of the requests of the People's Reform Party is that the returns that are coming in should be accompanied by information as to the precincts where these returns are coming from. Is that possible to comply with? Is that quite possible?

[Locsin] If we have the certificates of canvass, we have that information. As a matter fact, since the other day, we have set them up. After we come up with the hard copy that you get, we show them the certificates of canvass [COC]. It's just time. All of the parties....

[Abaya, interrupting] How many thousands of COC's, in a day, are you getting now?

[Locsin] Well, at the moment we are not getting from the National Capital Region any COC's because precisely of that phenomenon....

[Abaya, interrupting] Wherever—Mindanao, Albay. Wherever. How many hundreds of thousands.

[Locsin] I am not.... [Locsin changes thought] I do not know the running....

[Abaya, interrupting] My point is: Is it possible to accede to these demands, to help cool down tempers?

[Locsin] Oh, we have what you call is an agreement then that they can see whatever support this document is copied that we give out, they can see it. [sentence as heard]

[Abaya] You have an itemized list of precincts from where those....

[Locsin, interrupting] Oh yes, we show that to them.

[Abaya] But can you supply with copies? That is what they want, a copy of the lists of precincts that are being reported.

[Locsin] Oh yes, they see, we can show them from which precincts the....

[Abaya, interrupting] You can show that to them? So that will help....

[Locsin, interrupting] We have, as a matter of fact, been showing that to them since last night. They were all there.

[Navarro] What candidates are represented in....

[Locsin, interrupting] All the candidates are represented, except for the New Society Movement, which for some reason among others....

[De Jesus, interrupting] They were in fact shown on television earlier this evening, being seated, being given their place as observers, so they could see it very, very close. But perhaps you can tell the public tonight, also what mechanism or what efforts you have undertaken, I mean, to speed up this process. You have been in fact transporting, you are not just waiting there for these things.

[Locsin] No, we, as a matter of fact.... [Locsin changes thought] this is the second day that we have been sending out helicopters to the different regions to pick up the COC's.

[Abaya] What is the normal transmission? Is is not by computer?

[Locsin] If only. No.

[Abaya] Physical transmission....

[Locsin, interrupting] In some areas, by fax.

[Abaya] That's acceptable, right?

[Locsin] But that is only where you have telephone lines. Now you don't have telephone lines in some municipalities. In some of them, you have to travel to the next municipality to be able to fax here the documents.

In some other areas, you know, you have to go transmission if you don't carry that to the next municipality, you have to go by morse code. [sentence as heard] The communication system....

[Navarro, interrupting] That's by telegram.

[Locsin] That's fine. But you also have to also consider that if you think of modern elections systems, modern process, you have to dismantle monopolies in [word indistinct]. [Laughter]

[Navarro] That is a very good point.

[Abaya] That is another point.

[De Jesus] I think this whole experience demonstrates how quickly we must develop in the next three or four years, before the elections; otherwise all these complaints are worth nothing.

[Abaya] As I said, how come in the old days the Namfrel was reporting from the precinct level, why was that not followed in this....

[Locsin, interrupting] We have been reporting from the precinct level, but after the precinct level, when all the volunteers had to go home—they were all tired—so what do you pick? So you go into the next thing, which you see are advance certificates of election returns. But before you can do that, what happens is that there are already protests in the canvass. So everybody....

[Abaya, interrupting] So everything bogs down again.

[Locsin] [Words indistinct] and then people go there to the precincts and say people power and stop the canvas....

[De Jesus, interrupting] Raul, may I ask you a question that might be sensitive since you are a member of the MCQC? I seem to have perceived with watching the coverage and commentaries going on on both radio and television—did you perceive that there was some confusion even on the part of your media colleagues on what the MCQC is about?

[Locsin] I think that there was failure of understanding. I think that most people don't understand first, what their coverage is, so they ask questions. Whereas [words indistinct] is just but a wasteland. [laughter]

[De Jesus] The information being precisely what systems and procedures was and where it is going to be set in [as heard] after the individual and the independent media count.

[Locsin] We have given this information out since the very beginning.

[De Jesus] You did give them out?

[Locsin] Yes, we have given them out. On the other hand, in all fairness to media, it was already very late in the day that we got our mandate. The reason why we are there is that the law states that citizens' count be media-based. And so you had no choice but to go in there.

[Abaya] Secretary De Villa, I notice that it is not your department, sir, but there are some concerns about members of the Office of the President going out into the provinces and suspicions are that they are manipulating the canvassing. What have you got to say about this, sir?

[De Villa] Can you name names?

[Navarro] No, we will not.

[De Villa] No, I really don't know that this is going on in this place and in that context. I also don't believe that the president will authorize such an activity, or that people who are very close to the president will do this to her. I think that the president has been very, very honest since the beginning, in regards to what she wants out of this election exercise. And she made very clear to us that all she wanted is that she will have an honest, clean and orderly election that will lead to a smooth transition of power so that we can project, for our own benefit, real political stability, from where we can begin the next administration, whoever will the president be. And we have discussed this again and again in the cabinet, and she has asked us to transmit this all the way down the line. And I don't think the Office of the President, after all of the effort that have been done and after all the effort that the Comelec has put into this exercise, will be the very first one to do something of such foolishness that may be in the minds of some.

[Navarro] Given what has happened though, do you think that the president is going to get her wish to have a clean election and a peaceful transition?

[De Villa] I do believe so, Nelson. I think that after all the emotions, after all of the noise and after all of the threatening words and after the sweat and the tears that will go along with that, when everything shall have been said and done, this will settle down.

[Navarro] So you think that it is possible?

[De Villa] And the recourse to law, the recourse to the rule of law will be the one to prevail. And when it settles down to that point, then we will have a transition of power. As a matter of fact, what is being discussed now among us in Malacanang is the inauguration program already. That is assuming that all of these things will come to pass without us losing our republic, without us fragmenting ourselves, and without us having to fight among each other.

[Navarro] When you say that you are preparing for the inauguration, do you already have an idea of who is going to be inaugurated? [laughter]

[De Villa] There is no name yet. I am really talking about the general process and who are the members of this committee or that committee, the ones who take care of this, who takes care of that. That is what is going on right now.

[Navarro] It needs to be pointed out also that the last inauguration that we had a transfer of power was in 1965, right? Where the outgoing....

[De Jesus, interrupting] We had two inauguration ceremonies. In 1986 we had an inauguration.

[Navarro] That was not a normal....

[De Villa, interrupting] We had two simultaneous inaugurations....

[Navarro] That was an abnormal.... [Navarro changes thought] did you see the ceremony where the president comes in, or the incoming president goes to Malacanang. [passage indistinct]

[De Jesus] You remember that scene? That was a long time ago.

[De Villa] All I could say, is that she is really looking very forward to doing that and demonstrating it to our people and to the rest of the world....

[Navarro, interrupting] Do you see no stumbling block between now and that time on?

[De Villa] What I see is that this apprehension, this anxiety, all of this will eventually die down. We will come to that point. I have full confidence in our people, that they will see what needs to be done. They will see what is right and they will see to it that our country will not break up.

[Navarro] How can you say that when 70 percent of the votes are still to be canvassed. At least 70 percent or so....

[De Jesus, interrupting] I was going to ask Raul if he shares that [word indistinct].

[De Villa] Well, we knew from the very beginning that in these exercises that there will be thousands of losers.

[Navarro] More losers that winners.

[De Villa] But the election exercise itself shows that we have moved forward by keeping our elections clean and by giving our faith and confidence in the people who are running the elections, especially the Comelec. And I think that the Comelec has done a great job on this. And basing it on what has happened and all that we have gone through in the past, I think that I am optimistic of the fact that we will reach that point of age [as heard] wherein there is a smooth transition of power.

[De Jesus] We are going to try to quiet down the fears, which I think is a healthy thing to do, about this coup, the elements that may be there used by those who would wish to destabilize the situation. Secretary De Villa, what is the reading that you have from the different camps of those who lost and of those who may lose? Is there a basis there that they may be able to rouse their following into such discontent that they would take to the streets?

[De Villa] We do not see any anxiety or any disturbance on the part of the men and women of the Armed Forces in the different camps. I think that we have informed them well enough, and well in advance, that we will stay very professional in terms of our attitude and in terms of our behavior with regard to this election. We have said from the very beginning that we will support and defend the Constitution all the way and that we will fully back the Comelec in what it is doing and in what it wants us to do. Finally, we said that we are committed to whatever would be the official results of the elections, in as far as the next commander in chief is concerned.

[De Jesus] What about the civilian supporters? I mean, among the political candidates and their disgruntled followers, is there any danger that there may be a collusion of splintered forces?

[De Villa] We have heard of some rumors that there are some groups who are trying to link with each other; but at the same time, we do not see any real effort going on. We have heard of one or two persons going around talking to another [as heard]. On an organizational level, we have not seen this. I think that all the political groups are being very careful about this thing. They know that this will be a great disservice to our people.

[Abaya] Secretary De Villa, let me go to another aspect of the elections, this is the alleged tie-up between Danding Cojuangco and Nur Misuari. In fact, Danding was promising Misuari the whole of Mindanao following the Tripoli Agreement, instead of what has been arrived at through the democratic process. What has been the reaction from the field, Secretary? Did this create any backlash against Danding, or did it create sympathy for Nur Misuari? What is the situation?

[De Villa] I have been to Mindanao just prior to the elections on a couple of occasions, and surprisingly, this did not create any ripple there whatsoever, either from the Muslim community or from the Christian community. But there are certainly some security implications to this proposal because we have an autonomy that is in place and that's an ongoing concern. We have done this through a constitutional process and Misuari, for all intents and purposes, [passage indistinct] is no longer a real threat to the area.

[Abaya] So why is Danding making overtures with him, or even striking up a relationship?

[De Villa] I cannot explain this, Tony. All I can say is that if that were to happen, then we would probably reverse what has already been done and spent for by our government, and I don't know whether the Muslim officials, who are now in place, will accept this.

[De Jesus] Do you find then that this is a political miscalculation on the part of Mr. Cojuangco?

[De Villa] I am not very keen on making that judgment, but I think that it could be a minus factor really.

[De Jesus] In a sense, that really means that Nur Misuari has no following... [De Jesus changes thought] so if you're saying that Nur Misuari has very poor following [word indistinct], then why make a deal with him if it will only make you less popular with those who are already....

[De Villa, interrupting] This is probably a question of understanding what is the situation with respect to the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF]. Here, we are no longer dealing with just the MNLF, we are also dealing with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Even in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], these two factions are now competing with each other.

[Navarro] The Organization of Islamic States?

[De Villa] The Organization of Islamic States or Islamic Conference. In so far as our autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao are concerned, let me stress the point that for the first time, the OIC summit has recognized our efforts in establishing an autonomous region among our Muslim brothers.

[Abaya] Raul, talking about the autonomous region, the MCQC tabulation does not have a particular entry for the Cordillera Autonomous Region [CAR] and the Muslim Autonomous Region. Why is this so?

[Locsin] Well, it is incorporated into the political divisions, which is different from the Comelec divisions. Part of the CAR is in Region I, and another part is in Region II.

[Abaya] What region would Mindanao fall under?

[Locsin] The Mindanao region will fall under Regions IX and XII.

[Abaya] We are looking at your partial returns right now, and I read that the tie-up with Danding and Misuari did not help him at all because he is doing poorly in both regions. If at all, this may even have created a backlash against him.

[Locsin] I am a tabulator, not an analyst. [laughter]

Aquino Defends Poll Body Against Allegations

HK1905112192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino defended the Commission on Elections [Comelec] today against allegations that it favors administration candidate Fidel Ramos. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The president said that one has only to scrutinize and analyze these accusations to realize that the Comelec has been successful in conducting a peaceful and orderly election and that it has been nonpartisan in carrying out its duties. The president also said that she believes that Comelec's commissioners will not allow themselves to be used by anyone, no matter how high their position in the government is. [end recording]

Comelec Chairman Explains Slowness of Vote Count

HK2005064392 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Commission on Elections [Comelec] Chairman Christian Monsod has admitted that the Comelec's canvassing of votes, as well as that of the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC], has been slow. Monsod said this during an interview over DZAS' "Morning Show" program. He said the vote count is being delayed by one or two days. He pointed out this is because of the large number of candidates and the length of the ballot.

Monsod said the vote count in Metro Manila is the slowest of all because it has more precincts than the provinces. He added that Quezon City has the highest number of precincts—almost 6,000. However, he said the canvassing may be completed this week, or early next week.

Monsod denied allegations about fraud in the canvassing.

[Begin recording in English] There should not be any suspicion because we have long said that our canvassing will be slow. But there are those who call themselves experts who seem to forget [words indistinct] and our explanations, as well as our request, before the election, for a little patience. As for the MCQC, they are coming up faster because they have received many certificates of canvass and summaries from the municipalities and cities.

Another thing being said is that canvassing in Manila is slower than in the provinces. They ask why the results right here take so long. Well, they forget one thing. The cities and municipalities in Manila have more precincts than the provinces do. The number of precincts in the provinces average about 100 to 110 [words indistinct], while here in Manila, there are 1,000 to 2,000 to 5,000 precincts. In Quezon City there are 6,000. Now that's a big difference, isn't it, for people to assume that the canvassing in these municipalities would be faster than in the provinces.

What we have done is put up canvassing committees. For example, in Caloocan, where there are 1,100 precincts, we set up a canvassing committee. Usually, if we have the personnel, we can set up as many as one canvassing committee for each 100 precincts. [end recording]

Canvassers' Computers Break Down

HK2005060692 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Canvassing of the latest tallies by the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] has been stalled. MCQC Executive Director Ed Nuque says this is because of overloaded computers. At the same time, the number of certificates of canvass arriving at MCQC headquarters has increased. But Nuque gave assurances that despite all this, the processing of certificates has not been affected. He said that MCQC encoders had made a mistake by missing a step in the entry of data last night, which added to the delayed tabulation. He said that because of this delay, data from the certificates which arrived at midnight last night are only now being tabulated.

Meanwhile, as Fidel Ramos maintains his lead in the presidential race, registering 2,174,037 votes, former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco is catching up with People's Reform Party Miriam Defensor Santiago for second place. Santiago's lead over Cojuangco is narrowing. Based on the latest MCQC report at 0841 today, Santiago has registered a total of 1,650,068 votes while Cojuangco has 1,650,020. House Speaker Ramon Mitra remains fourth with 1,468,426, followed by Imelda Marcos with 1,046,356; Salonga with 922,351; and Laurel with 195,157 votes.

Estrada still leads the vice presidential race with 2,392,795 votes, followed by former Chief Justice Fernan with 1,931,142, Osmena, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Aquilino Pimentel, Vic Magsaysay, and Eva Estrada Kalaw.

In the senatorial race, former Quezon City Vice Mayor Vicente Sotto III still leads.

Santiago Spokesman Presents 'Evidence' of Fraud

HK2005090392 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 20 May 92

[By Mike Abe]

[Text] Attorney Alex Padilla, the spokesman and lawyer of the People's Reform Party of Miriam Defensor Santiago, presented during a news conference the evidence gathered by the party proving that mass fraud did occur in many precincts throughout the country. According to Padilla, the evidence they have comes directly from the precincts where the fraud occurred, particularly in Pangasinan, Metro Manila, and the other regions.

[Begin Padilla recording in English; in progress] ...the precinct tally forms or the advance copy of the election returns, these are all precinct level. You will notice that under Form 8SL, Number 11579—this is one of the source documents of the Media Citizen's Quick Count [MCQC], which we will furnish you later on in the right place—that on the whole, the votes cast originally at 4,657 were expanded to 5,597. Mr. Ramos, who won this particular in this precinct or district , from a vote of 857 was increased to 2,920 [sentence as heard]. And this deed was done in Dolinao, Pangasinan, the first district.

We have also received reports that particularly 15 May, reports from Pangasinan were being hand-carried into MCQC and not faxed, as what was their agreed procedure. Basically, the reports should have been faxed and used with certain code words; but at this time, at least for Pangasinan, it was hand-carried by certain representatives.

Also on that particular case, for four days, Mrs. Santiago was leading the count, whereby she registered a 74,000 lead; but after 15 May, what used to be a 2.9 percent count of Region I, was now being credited with 11.9 percent, while Metro Manila has still maintained a 16 percent count. For [word indistinct] purposes of this conference, Metro Manila, the nearest locality near the MCQC, was merely registering a 15 percent count from day one up to the present. Region I, from 2.9 percent on the first day on 11 May, by now has reached over 50 percent. This is at a recognized bailiwick of Mr. Ramos. Region VII had also registered a sharp increase, from a mere 7.9 percent, it is now well over 40 percent. The same for goes for Region XI. But Region VI and Region I and the National Capital Region [NCR] remained stagnant—15 percent for the NCR, and for Region VI at 39 percent.

This has been the basis and the flaw of the counting done by the MCQC, as of the moment. [end recording]

Santiago Not To Ally With Rightist Army Group

HK2005104192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Miriam Defensor Santiago, People's Reform Party [PRP] presidential candidate, has again accused administration candidate Fidel Ramos of committing silent fraud in the canvassing of votes and has also challenged President Aquino to leave a legacy of a clean election. Cesar Chavez reports:

[Begin recording] [Chavez] PRP candidate Miriam Santiago today challenged President Aquino to leave a good legacy of her term by not using her power and influence to allow the administration candidate to defraud the election results.

In a news briefing at the Manila Hotel, Santiago said the Commission on Elections [Comelec] and Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] are not capable of opposing Ramos' systematic cheating. She also said that the National Union of Christian Democrats commits fraud by delaying delivery of election returns and counting of votes in places where Ramos is leading. Santiago said it is amazing that not even 15 percent of the votes in Metro Manila have been accounted for when over 50 percent have already been counted in Regions 1, 7, and 11, which gave Ramos the big lead. She added that this tactic aims to put her in third position.

[Santiago in English—in progress]...a fair time. Time for President Aquino to leave a final legacy of fair play to her people. Time for the Comelec chairman and the commissioners to discipline their subordinates in the field, so that subordinate employees would refuse political pakikisama [goodwill] which translates through [words indistinct] corrupt political warlords. Time for the MCQC to release precinct data with their tabulation so that the political parties like ours would find [words indistinct] the report from the field.

[Chavez] Santiago also said she will not form an alliance with the Reform the Armed Forces Movement but will continue to hold nonviolent mass demonstrations nationwide. [end recording]

Police Guard Vital Facilities After Bomb Threat

HK2005021592 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 May 92 p 8

[By Jerry Lacuarta]

[Text] San Fernando, Pampanga—Police forces were mobilized yesterday to ensure the government vital installations in Central Luzon which are targets of bombing operations by the rightist military rebels, a Philippine National Police (PNP) report said yesterday.

Chief Superintendent Pantaleon Jr., Central Luzon PNP director, ordered the PNP provincial directors and field commanders to deploy more men at the vital facilities in their respective areas to preempt the move of the military rebels.

Intelligence reports said that the members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance]-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Yonug Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) have successfully planted about 100 kilograms of C-4 explosives on some undisclosed vital installations.

The information received at Camp Olivas further states that "within hours from now, an explosion of 100 kilograms of C-4 explosives successfully planted on some vital facilities will serve as a signal for the RAM-SFP-YOU to stage another coup."

It added that the RAM-SFP-YOU have established communication link with presidential candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Among the installations in Central Luzon that were being placed under tight watch by the police security men were the transmission towers of the National Power Corp. (Napocor), the Angat and the Pantabangan dams, the DND [Department of National Defense] arsenal in Limay, Bataan, the Bataan Refinery Corp., also in Limay, and others which are located mostly in Bataan.

Police operatives had earlier foiled the attempt of the suspected men of RAM-SFP-YOU to demolish the Napocor transmission towers in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

At least four bundles with 100 sticks of dynamite each were found tied on the four transmission towers in barangay Libtong, Meycauayan, last week.

The police said that the bombs were timed for the start of the canvassing of election returns in Central Luzon. The dynamite could place Bulacan, Pampanga, and part of Metro Manila under darkness had it exploded.

Thailand

Suchinda Reviews Bangkok Developments

19 May

BK1905114792 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0737 GMT 19 May 92

[TV address by Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun—recorded; broadcast simultaneously on Bangkok Army TV Channels 5 and 7, and Bangkok Thai Color Television Channels 3 and 9]

[Text] Dear compatriots, I would like to review for you some facts about the situation in Bangkok. Last night, an event occurred in our country, an event which caused tremendous grief to me and the general Thai public. We never thought such an incident would take place in Thailand. The government authorities tried to show perseverence and restraint and refrained from taking action which might have resulted in the loss of lives and property to the beloved Thai people because we are all brothers and we all love our country. Most of the people who gathered at the rallies were motivated by a sense of patriotism. They did not realize that by gathering at the rallies they had become tools of a group of individuals who are striving for power or want to change the democratic administrative system with the king as head of the state to other types of democratic administrative systems.

I would like to report some facts to you. Some people involved in the rallies were from an organized setup. Their aim was to trigger violence. Those people are sabotage experts who want to cause damage to government offices and premises of the private sector. The government authorities had to stop them to prevent the situation from worsening and causing more damage to Thailand.

I would like to bring to your attention the plan for a national revolution by a group of people using the people as tools to achieve their goal. I hope the Thai people still remember a one-time member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] who broke ranks because he had an ideological conflict with other CPT members, as he was pro-Soviet. This person fled back from a foreign country into Thailand. He was taken into custody by the Police Central Investigation Bureau. The Thai Government later made use of him in its study on counterinsurgency tactics against the CPT. The government at one time even invited this person to be an adviser for drafting a charter for its political party—the Saha Prachathai Party. The charter, once it was completed, was found by several members of that party to be no different from the charter of the Communist Party.

This former member of the CPT Central Committee, later on, became a close friend of a senior military officer who has founded a political party and become the leader of it. He took from the former CPT member an ideology for a revolution in Thailand in order to have Thailand adopt a democratic administrative system that will not leave any power to the king. That was the line adopted by this person. This person once tried to persuade me and my friends to stage a coup, but when I asked him in which direction he was going to lead the country and what the line for his administration after the coup would be, he could give me no answer. It was for that reason that we did not follow him.

This person has organized numerous power groups to facilitate his revolution. The leaders of last night's rallies who are responsible for the violence were appointed by the Communist Party of Thailand Central Committee and the former military officer. It was, therefore, difficult for the government to control the situation without resorting to violent action. The mass who participated in the rallies did not realize this fact. They did not know that they were being used as tools for a plot to create violence and disturbances in the scheme to change Thailand's administrative system. I would like to inform the public of this fact, and would beg you to use careful judgment about an action taken under a claim of promoting democracy in Thailand, but with the hidden motive as described previously. As a matter of fact, we have the parliament as a forum for procedures to be taken toward achieving democracy for the nation. We are also in the process of amending the Constitution in order to make it a truly democratic Constitution. Therefore, there should have been no activities outside the parliament bringing disaster to the country, as have now occurred and of which you are all aware. I, myself, and other government officials are most saddened about this.

The authorities tried to contain those destructive activities and have, since this morning, brought the situation back to peace. There is not any rally in the city of

Bangkok. Still, those people resorted to spreading all kinds of rumors as a tactic. They made telephone calls and sent telex messages to various places, including businesses, banks, and shops, urging the people to come out for the rallies. They claimed that a group of ralliers was being surrounded by government authorities and needed help. I would like to report to you, dear Thai people, that the situation in Bangkok has returned to a state of peace since this morning. There are no more rallies or gatherings threatening more disturbances in Bangkok. The country has returned to a state of law and order. The Capital Security Command has issued a statement declaring a state of emergency and prohibiting political gatherings of more than 10 people. There is no reason why the people should come out for the rallies if they understand the situation and want to uphold law and order.

I ask the people not to believe in the telex messages or telephone calls made by those with an ill intention for peace in the country, trying to spread rumors to various groups and creating disturbances which would destroy the national economy in accordance with the wishes of those who want a change of the administrative system through violent means. I want to cite some examples of the rumors: They lied that the king and queen had already left the country for abroad; they said I had fled the country after withdrawing 200 million baht from a bank. There were also rumors about acts of sabotage here and there: an attempt to set ablaze the Securities Exchange of Thailand, or banks, or various other spots in Bangkok. Those reports are not true.

I would like to beg the beloved Thai people to remain in peace and to follow closely political developments in the country through all the television and radio stations which will report developments to the Thai people around the clock. The information will be factual without distortion. The Thai people can listen to the news from all these television and radio stations. I would like to inform the Thai people that the government will maintain law and order in the country, and I confirm to you that the situation in Bangkok at present is normal and not at all as the rumors say. Thank you

20 May

BK2005101792 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0845 GMT 20 May 92

[TV address by Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun in Bangkok on 20 May; simultaneously broadcast by Bangkok Army Television Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Color Television Channels 3, 9, and 11—live or recorded]

[Text] Respected and beloved Thai compatriots:

I, in the capacity as head of the government, would like to report about the situation in Bangkok to our respected and beloved Thai compatriots as the following:

At present, the rioters are trying to spread rumors on numerous subjects in order to mislead the public that the situation in the country is not peaceful, and especially about the number of people killed in the rioting on Ratchadamnoen Avenue in the past two days.

I would like to inform you that the political rally held by the people has been infiltrated by certain ill-intentioned elements who are bent on creating unrest in our country. These elements have used violent means to carry out their activities, particularly by trying to destroy and setting ablaze many government premises, shop houses, and important places. Therefore, it is necessary for the government and government authorities to suppress them, otherwise the situation will worsen and cause great losses to the country. In particular, they have seized oil and gas tanker trucks with the aim of setting them on fire in order to cause uncontrollable fires. For example, after setting the Public Relations Department and Government Lottery Bureau buildings ablaze, the rioters did not allow the authorities to put out the fire. That damage has inflicted great losses not only to government premises but also to the homes of some innocent people. Because of this, the government deems it necessary to implement measures to halt the activities of the rioters. All forms of rioting committed by these elements are aimed at creating confusion in the country. For example, they have successively used between 100 and 200 motorcycles to roam around the city to destroy traffic lights, police boxes, government premises, gun shops, and many other important places. Therefore, it is necessary for the government and government authorities to take action to halt their acts to prevent the situation from deteriorating. The reason we have taken drastic measures is to minimize the losses to our country, thereby resulting in some deaths and injuries. To date, the total number of casualties is 40 dead and 600 wounded. This is the combined number from the government's and the people's side. Most of the estimated 600 wounded have suffered minor injuries. Some 400 of them have already left the hospitals. At present, over 100 wounded are still being hospitalized in many hospitals. These hospitals have posted the actual figures of the dead and wounded on their bulletin boards.

Therefore, the public should not fall for rumors saying that a large number of people have lost their lives in the riots. These rumors are untrue. They are only aimed at instigating the people to develop hatred against state authorities and at fanning and spreading the unrest. I appeal to all Thai compatriots to follow and believe the news reports, which have been intermittently publicized by the government through television and radio programs. If you compatriots would like to know the truth about the exact casualties caused by the riots, you can ask any hospital for this information. These hospitals are ready to explain the truth to you.

I profoundly regret the casualties inflicted on both the government and people's side in the riots. I deeply hope the government and the authorities will be able to restore tranquility and happiness to Bangkok and our beloved country as soon as possible. To achieve this goal, we ask for cooperation and understanding from all Thai compatriots throughout the country. I know that all Thai people would also like to see that peace and happiness be restored to our country soon.

Thank you.

Moderate Military Leaders Said Plotting Coup

BK2005073892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 20 May 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Bangkok, May 20 (AFP)—Moderate forces in the military are plotting to overthrow Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun in a bid to end the mass killings that have rocked the capital over the past three days, diplomatic and Thai sources said Wednesday.

Suchinda and his brother-in-law and current army chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi are becoming more and more isolated, being accused of threatening the country's future, the sources said.

"Suchinda's days are numbered. There is very strong evidence that moderate military chiefs are going to overthrow him," said one source.

"Suchinda and Itsaraphong seem to be refusing to listen to reason, causing serious cracks to appear in the military," he added.

More than one hundred people are believed to have been killed since troops were first given the order to open fire on anti-government demonstrators early Monday, according to medical, diplomatic and opposition sources.

Suchinda has become the focus of the demonstrators who claim the unelected premier is little more than a military dictator, determined to hold power for the next 10 years.

Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in recent weeks demanding Suchinda's immediate resignation and the appointment of an elected MP being named as prime minister.

Suchinda, who on Tuesday claimed the protests were a communist plot, has refused to step down.

Meanwhile a massive cover-up involving the secret cremations of scores of bodies killed during two days of demonstrations in the Thai capital is being carried out by the military, according to diplomatic sources.

The sources said troops are taking the bodies to temples for cremation in an attempt to hide the real death toll of civilians gunned down by soldiers.

"It is almost certain that a massive cover-up is going on. The military do not want anyone to know how many people they killed," said one diplomat.

Supreme Command Headquarters told diplomats privately on Tuesday that 54 people, including seven troops and police were killed since the order to shoot was given early Monday morning.

But hospital, diplomatic and opposition sources put the total at more than one hundred and the death toll is expected to rise as many of the wounded are in critical condition.

The city's hospitals have put out appeals for blood donors, current supplies almost exhausted.

"It would be nonsense to believe only 54 people had been killed," said one military attache. "The figure is at least 100 and could be as high as 150."

Neighbors at a temple near the international airport have told of the stench of burning bodies all Tuesday night as cremations were carried out.

According to unconfirmed reports soldiers were seen arriving in trucks with bodies.

"Our information is that the military have hidden many of the bodies and are now taking them to be secretly cremated," said one diplomat.

Since the bloody confrontations soldiers have been seen piling wounded and dead into waiting ambulances and driving them away to unknown destinations.

They have also been accused of preventing many of the wounded of being transported to hospitals by civilians.

Early Wednesday Princess Maha Chakkri called for an end to the killing.

"People's lives are more important than property, said the Princess who is on an official visit in France.

"I want no more killings," she said.

At Ramkhamhaeng University on the outskirts of the city about 5,000 anti-government protesters continued to demonstrate Wednesday.

Barricades were set up late morning with booby-traps after rumours that the military, who had pulled back early in the morning, were expected to move in later in the day to break it up.

Huge gas canisters have been put in the barricades and set up to explode.

As the protests continued a government spokesman announced that schools would not open for at least another two days. They had been due to open last Monday but the government ordered them shut.

Hotels in the city report more and more cancellations as images of the bloodshed were carried on television worldwide.

Guests are also checking out, cutting short their visits and flights out of the country are reported to be almost full.

Capital Security Command Denies King Detained

BK2005093492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0907 GMT 20 May 92

[Announcement, read twice in succession by announcer, simultaneously broadcast by all TV stations—date not given]

[Text] Dear listeners: The rioters have arrogantly sent fax and telephone messages to various places claiming that the king has been held and taken into custody in Nakhon Ratchasima Province by the military. They urged the people to show up at a rally planned at Sanam Luang grounds on 22 May to give support to his majesty the king. The Capital Security Command hereby denies it. The report is utterly a lie. At present the king and queen are at Chitlada Palace under tight security protection by the military and the people all the time.

This is for the information of the public.

King's Privy Councillors Hold Emergency Session

BK1905134992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 May 92 p 1

[From special evening supplement]

[Text] Privy councillors were in emergency session this morning to try to solve the political crisis, an informed source said today.

The source said highly-respected academics and university lecturers are also holding an urgent meeting at the Sirirat Hospital.

They plan to submit an appeal to His Majesty the King to intervene to stop the killings, the source added.

Princess Sirinthon Remarks on Situation

BK2005050492 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 2300 GMT 19 May 92

[Interview given by H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon on her visit to France to an unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Princess] Afterwards, I think I would like to return to Bangkok. I watched the news presented on television here and also read reports in newspapers. This morning, I tried to make a phone call to Bangkok to ask about the situation there, but could not get a line at all. First, I tried to call the palace [Royal Chitlada Palace] but could not get through. Then I tried to call some friends and could not get through to them either. I think this is because at present, many Thai people have come to attend the fair in Paris and would like to make phone calls to their homes after learning about the situation in Bangkok. This is why I could not get a line.

However, I finally made it through in the afternoon and had a chance to talk to His Majesty the King, but could not talk long. I was only able to have a brief conversation with him because I had to keep an appoinment in the afternoon here. It would not be nice if I arrived later than guests from other countries. In a very brief conversation with the king, he told me it would be good for me to return home early. I was told that, presumably, there were some shootings, the loss of many lives, and unrest in Bangkok. Before that, when I could not get a line to Bangkok, I made phone calls to some friends and relatives in Europe—in England and other countries. I asked them about their feelings and opinions on the situation. We share the same feelings in that at the present time, we do not quite understand who is who, or who is doing what to whom. We all share the same opinion that we would like—maybe it is difficult to say this—at least, lives of the people to be secured as quickly as possible and in the best way possible. We share the view that democracy is what everyone wants, but amidst the present chaotic situation, it is difficult to win democracy. In saying this, it may sound as if no problems will be solved, but we still do not know in what way the national administration will be improved once peace is restored. That is far ahead, but what everyone feels now is that a frightening situation exists, and everyone would like this situation to end. This is because the images of the event that we have seen are ones we do not like to see. I think that is about all.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does Your Royal Highness plan to return to Thailand urgently?

[Princess] I will try to return as quickly as possible, but I have to complete the major activities scheduled in my itinerary for this stage of my visit first. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Before returning to Thailand, would Your Royal Highness like to extend any message to the Thai people?

[Princess] It would be difficult for me to extend a message, because, as I said earlier, no one wants to see a serious incident take place. Even if I extend a message, it would be difficult for things to improve immediately. It would just be impossible. I believe that killing or using violence against one another is not a good thing to do, but how can anyone stop an action that has already occurred? This is because such events involve urgent situations, and a massive gathering of people may lead to violence. In a mob, there are various kinds of people. If only one person commits a violent act, violence may spread. If anyone is able to control the situation, please do so and prevent violence from occurring, because it will result in damage and injury for a large amount of property and large numbers of people. In fact, property loss is not as serious as a loss of life. Human life should be considered more important than property. However, all kinds of losses are involved. Most importantly, if it could be true now, I wish that those who are harming others and doing the killing would end the killing and violence, because we all are Thai people, no matter to which group we may belong. There may be differences of opinion. If someone proposes an idea, I hope that it will be discussed peacefully, and as in previous situations, I hope that conflicts will be solved through means other than harming or killing one another. I hope that I do not see any repetition of what occurred yesterday.

Foreign Minister Pongphon Views Country's Image

BK1905231692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 2242 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said that we have to explain the truth about the incidents in our country to foreign countries so that they will correctly understand what has happened here and to resurrect the image of the country in the eyes of other countries.

[Begin Pongphon recording] As for the country itself, I have instructed ministry officials to make preparations to invite foreign diplomats accredited to Thailand to attend a briefing on the truth about the incidents. But it is difficult to do that at the moment because of a three day-holiday. We cannot do anything expeditiously at the moment. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry plans to explain the truth about the incidents to other countries by sending news bulletins and videotapes of the incidents taken both in the morning and the evening to our embassies and consular offices in foreign countries to explain the truth to them. The foreign minister went on to say that the next step is to conduct public relations campaigns to resurrect the good image of Thailand.

[Begin Pongphon recording] I think that we have to start anew. We must resurrect the image of Thailand. But we have to wait until the situation here becomes less eventful. [end recording]

Chawalit, Athit Discuss Current Crisis

BK2005115892 Bangkok Color Television Channel 3 in Thai 1120 GMT 20 May 92

[Report on interviews with General Chawalit Yongchaiyut and House Speaker Athit Urairat on current crisis, monitored in progress—portions recorded]

[Text] In the meantime, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, said that consultations in the House of Representatives would be the best way out of the current crisis. If the House is unable to resolve the crisis, members of the house from the opposition parties may resign from house membership.

[Begin Chawalit recording] The resignation of house members from either side is one of the ways we have been discussing. However, while we still have the house, we should use it as the prop for our people as effectively as we can. After we have done that and the problem still remains, we will explore other means. [end recording]

House Speaker Athit Urairat said that even though he has the authority to order the release of Major General Chamlong Simuang, he has to take into account other political reasons. He asks for time to consider this issue and will tell the press tomorrow. As for convening a House session to debate the current crisis, we may be able to do it at the earliest by next week.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] In connection with the state of emergency declared by the prime minister, who has more power than whom? I mean you have the authority to release Maj. Gen. Chamlong right away....

[Athit] Yes, I do have the power. But I have to consider other matters. That is not only it. If we have nothing else to consider, we can look at it from one angle. But there are many angles to consider. Tomorrow, I will tell you about this.

[Unidentified reporter] You have to look at it from the political angle, don't you?

[Athit] Many angles, many angles.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have a firm belief in the parliamentary system?

[Athit] Of course, of course.

[Unindentified reporter] Do you think this somewhat critical crisis can be resolved?

[Athit] Yes, it can be resolved. But it is difficult to ask for the things we have already lost. In principle, the house still remains the prop. [end recording]

Official: Arrests of More Politicians Upcoming

BK1905142292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, supreme commander and Air Force chief, said more arrests will be made in addition to the seven whose arrest warrants have been announced by the Police Department. The supreme commander said documents to be used as evidence against them will be given to the police. There is clear evidence to prove that they were responsible for creating riots.

[Begin recording] [Kaset] In addition to the arrest warrant against the seven, there will be a warrant of arrest against Prasong Sunsiri. There is clear evidence against him.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the charge against him?

[Kaset] Creating riots. The Interior Ministry has evidence against several politicians of the opposition parties. I don't know who among them, but they are high-level leaders in their parties. [end recording]

The supreme commander did not say when the situation would be completely returned to normal, but said he would try to prevent this kind of incident.

[Begin Kaset recording] Well, it is difficult for me to say when we would be able to completely put down this kind of systematic attempt to create unrest. The military is doing its best to keep the situation under control. We planned to be lenient with them. We are very tired and we do not want this kind of incident to be repeated. [end recording]

PDP Members Denied Chamlong Visit

BK1905135992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 May 92 p 8

[From special evening supplement]

[Text] A group of Phalang Tham Party [PDP] members today were not allowed to meet their leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang who is being detained at the Police Private School at Bang Khen.

The PDP members went to the school with medicine, food, and clothes for Maj-Gen Chamlong.

They said the police not only turned down their request for a visit but also hurled abuse at them.

The group insisted that they would remain until the visit is allowed.

Arrest Said To Violate Constitution

BK2005041292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 92 p A5

[Text] The military's arrest of pro-democracy leader Chamlong Simuang violated the Constitution, New Aspiration Party spokesman Chaturon Chisaeng said yesterday.

An article of the Constitution stipulates the authorities cannot arrest any MPs or senators on criminal charges while Parliament is in session unless Parliament gives the permission, Chaturon said in a statement.

Chaturon, a Chachoengsao MP, explained further that those who arrest any MPs or senators have to report the cases to the parliament president, who is authorized to order their release.

According to the Constitution, any government organizations which seek to detain a member of parliament must seek permission from the parliament president, he said.

"I would like to ask Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun whether the present Constitution is still in effect," asked Chaturon at the end of his statement.

Chamlong, a Bangkok MP and former Phalang Tham Party leader, was handcuffed and whisked away by soldiers from Ratchadamnoen Avenue on Monday afternoon on charges of instigating unrest.

Chamlong, a former Bangkok governor, had been playing a key role in the peaceful demonstrations to demand Suchinda's resignation.

Suchinda, who appeared on television yesterday afternoon, said communists were behind massive demonstrations against him. Without mentioning names, Suchinda accused a retired general of allegedly being connected with Soviet-style communism.

Suchinda was aparently referring to New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, against whom he had earlier levelled a similar charge.

Solidarity Party secretary general Uthai Phimchaichon, referring to Suchinda's remarks, said: "If that was the case, (the government) should have settled the matter with that general and arrested key leaders. Why shoot at innocent people? A lot of women and children have been killed now."

New Aspiration Official Surrenders

BK1905133992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 May 92 p 8

[From special evening supplement]

[Text] New Aspiration Party deputy leader Wira Musikaphong surrendered to the police this morning.

Accompanied by Gen Siri Tiwaphan, the party's deputy leader, Mr Wira reported to Pol Gen Phong-amat Amatayakun, deputy director-general for suppression.

Mr Wira was one of the leaders of the pro-democracy demonstrations.

A group of Southerners contacted the office of Police Chief Gen Sawat Amonwiwat this morning to arrange for Mr Wira's surrender.

Pro-democracy activists started calling on people today to withdraw all their money from Thai Military Bank and Krung Thai Bank as a boycott of the Suchinda Government over its use of force to suppress pro-democracy demonstrators.

Sources said many people in Bangkok have decided to close their accounts at Thai Military Bank and Krung Thai Bank from today, following the shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators by government troops in Ratchadamnoen Avenue since yesterday evening.

In Chiang Mai this morning, Chiang Mai University academics and students asked northern people to withdraw all they have deposited at the two banks to protest against the Government.

Department stores and shops in the Bang Lamphu area and gold shops in Yoawarat were closed this morning.

Hundreds of people were still gathering near the Revenue Department.

Twenty GMC trucks full of military men are reportedly heading for Bangkok from Saraburi Province.

'Slum Angel' in Custody

BK2005034892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 May 92 p A4

[Excerpts] Magsaysay award winner Prathip Ungsongtham Hata, the "slum angel" who is five months pregnant, is reportedly now in police custody while veteran politician Veera Musigapong surrendered to police yesterday as authorities continued their crackdown on pro-democracy leaders. [passage omitted]

Gothom Ariya, deputy chairman of the Campaign for Popular Democracy, said yesterday two academics have also disappeared.

Gothom said Prathip was among the thousands of people who had been arrested since Monday afternoon when security forces began coming down hard on pro-democracy protesters.

Police have not confirmed Prathip's arrest. [passage omitted]

Also on the arrest warrants were Student Federation of Thailand secretary general Prinya Thewannarumitkun, hunger protester Chittrawadi Worachat, ex-student leader Veng Tojirakarn, Dr Sant Hattirat and labour leader Somchai Kosaisuk.

Gothom said Prathip, whose social work won her a Magsaysay award, was taken along with Praphansak Kamonphet, a leading activist who had been fasting to protest against Suchinda.

Gothom added that two academics had been unaccounted for since the Monday crushing of anti-Suchinda protesters.

The two are Dr Apichai Phanthusen, an economics lecturer of the Thammasat University, and Dr San Hattirat, a senior member of the Confederation for Democracy.

San reportedly suffered a gunshot wound to his leg, according to Gothom.

"I don't know where he is now. I only learned that he was shot in a leg," Gothom said.

Military trucks loaded with arrested protesters were seen entering the police school all day long. Unofficial reports raised the number of the inmates to several thousand.

Relatives and friends of those arrested were not allowed to see the prisoners yesterday. Police charged those arrested with defying the state of emergency rule which prohibits "unusual" gathering of more than 10 people. [passage omitted]

Thirayut Bunmi, Others Arrested

BK1905111692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1047 GMT 19 May 92

["Urgent news" read twice in immediate succession by unidentified announcer; broadcast simultaneously on all Bangkok TV channels]

[Text] Dear fraternal people: At around noon on 19 May, police authorities proceeded to the Rattanakosin Hotel, now also called the Royal Hotel, and invited Mr. Thirayut Bunmi and others suspected of being leaders of the rioters and causing trouble for the fraternal people to accompany them. Now, these people are in police custody. In taking this action, the police authorities followed the steps and limit of their authority under the law. The police authorities were extremely polite in manner with these people and received good cooperation from them.

Meanwhile, regarding the rumor that about 200 dead bodies are being kept at the Rattanakosin Hotel, this news is groundless.

'Rampage' Continues in New Riots 20 May

Hotel Set Ablaze

BK2005074992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 20 (AFP)—Fresh riots have broken out in the centre of the Thai capital with at least 2,000 people on the rampage according to police sources.

The Royal hotel, centre of violent protests early Tuesday when dozens of anti-government demonstrators were gunned down by troops, was ablaze, they said.

According to police reports the crowds are smashing shop windows and looting.

The crowd suddenly appeared on the street shortly after lunch when troops who had been stationed in the area had pulled back.

The riots came as rumors swept the capital that moderate military chiefs were planning a coup to overthrow unelected Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun who is the target of the anti-government protests which have rocket the Bangkok.

Suchinda was due to make a live television broadcast later this afternoon but government officials have declined to say what he would say.

Trucks Burned

BK2005094492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0856 GMT 20 May 92

[Announcement, read twice in succession by announcer, simultaneously broadcast by all TV stations—date not given]

[Text] At 1430 today a group of about 3,000 rioters set ablaze two garbage trucks of the Bangkok Metropolis Administration at the Democracy Monument on Ratchadamnoen Avenue. The authorities therefore have to ban traffic in the area temporarily in order to take drastic action against the group of rioters.

Motorcyclists Taken Into Custody

BK2005021492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 May 92 p A2

[Text] More than 100 motorcyclists were taken into custody yesterday morning for allegedly taking part in the all-night rampage on Bangkok streets, a senior police official said.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Narong Rianthong said the suspects were accused of damaging public and private property.

But the arrest did not stop hundreds of motorcyclists from taking part in pockets of resistance by defiant protesters. Motorcyclists often form the vanguard of anti-Suchinda protesters' columns.

About 200 motorcyclists roared through Ramkhamhaeng Road yesterday evening, urging people on both sides to join a rally being organized in front of Ramkhamhaeng University.

Hundreds more took part in smaller rallies at the Memorial Bridge and nearby areas.

An unconfirmed report said another 150 motorcyclists were rounded up last night on Lanluang Road.

Most of those arrested yesterday were in their twenties and worked as taxi motorcyclists, police said.

In a cat-and-mouse chase that ended in front of St Louis Hospital on South Sathon Road, police shot dead one of the fleeing motorcyclists, police sources said.

The army command suggested in an announcement that Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, was behind the motorcycle gangs which rampaged through the city, setting police booths ablaze, destroying traffic signs and robbing a gas station.

It quoted one of the suspects, identified as Somwang Nimnoi, as saying that he was paid Bt200 to join the rampage.

Another suspect, Chawalit Chongsuwan, was arrested while trying to set fire to a police booth at Yommaraj flyover. A student leader paid him to take part in the vandalizing, he was quoted as saying.

Ramkhamhaeng, Ratchadamnoen 'Tense'

BK2005105792 Bangkok Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] As of 1600 today, the number of people attending the rally held continuously in front of and inside the campus of Ramkhamhaeng University since yesterday evening has increased to tens of thousands. However, the rally is basically peaceful. Security checkpoints have been set up around the rally site to search participants for weapons. Ramkhamhaeng University Rector Mr. Chusak Sirinin said that he had to permit the rally to be held inside the campus because the students had nowhere else to go. As a teacher, he is obliged to take care of his students when they turn to him [for help] despite the fact that political assemblies are now banned [by the government's state of emergency announcement]. He has had to do it for humanitarian reasons and he will have no regret if he is relieved of his post from his action. Our reporters say that the students are trying to remove numerous barricades set up on Ramkhamhaeng Road to allow the traffic to flow smoothly in the area.

As for at the Democracy Monument and Ratchadamnoen Avenue, it appears that the situation has become tense due to government forces moving in to take control of the situation. However, since this morning a large number of people have been turning up in the area to look at the damage caused by fires started by the rioters to some government buildings and premises and automobiles parked in the area. By noon, when the military and police forces moved in to remove burnt-out cars from the avenue, the situation immediately became tense as the two sides confronted each other. Finally, the military and police forces decided not to move in to clear the debris from the street.

At 1420, the rally at Ratchadamnoen Avenue became bigger when the number of demonstrators shot up to several thousand, turning into a large unruly mob. Some of them started causing mayhem by setting fire to two garbage trucks belonging to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, which were parked beside Son Daeng resturant and in the middle of the avenue in order to clean up the area. The rioters also set fire to another automobile parked in the middle of the street. They then gathered fibre glass flower pots and car tires into piles and set fire to them together with some oil tankers and buses they had seized since 18 May. They then destroyed the traffic lights on the avenue which had formerly been dismantled by them on 18 May. The reporters said that an estimated 3,000 soldiers have moved into Sanam Luang on the Royal Hotel side to maintain order.

Troops Open Fire on Protesters

BK2005080692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 20 May 92

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 20 (AFP)—Troops began shooting after riots broke out in the centre of the Thai capital Wednesday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

At least 2,000 people were on the rampage according to police sources.

The Royal Hotel, centre of violent protests early Tuesday when dozens of anti-government demonstrators were gunned down by troops, was ablaze, they said.

Police reports said later the crowd in the area had swollen to 20,000. Several buildings, including the Royal Hotel, were ablaze.

Black smoke can been seen rising over the area.

Earlier police said the crowds were smashing shop windows and looting. [passage omitted]

Crowd of 50,000 Dispersed

BK2005092992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0900 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] A Public Relations Department correspondent reported at 1520 today that at around 1400 about 50,000 people gathered again on Ratchadamnoen Avenue from Sanam Luang to Phan Fa Bridge. The military forces, moving from the directions of Phan Fa and Pinklao bridges and the Defense Ministry, have successfully dispersed the crowd and gained control of the situation without the use of arms. The crowd scattered in the directions of Sao Chingcha, Bang Lamphu, and Thewet at about 1515.

Further Reportage on 19 May Disturbances

Situation 'Very Satisfactory'

BK2005023492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0203 GMT 20 May 92

["Special urgent news"—read by unidentified announcer; broadcast simultaneously on Army TV Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Thai Color TV Channels 3 and 9]

[Text] Announcement of the Capital Security Command:

The general situation during the night of 19 May to the morning of 20 May was very satisfactory. There was a gathering of a number of people in Ramkhamhaeng University but there were no violent incidents. The authorities are trying to explain that the gathering should be discontinued for the time being until the state of emergency has been lifted and the national situation has returned to normal. This is very welcome news. Therefore, the fraternal people are asked to cooperate to quickly restore durable peace in order to provide the opportunity for every side to work together to effectively solve the country's problem rapidly.

On this occasion, the Capital Security Command wishes to express its profound thanks to the good wishes of every Thai citizen.

30,000 Protest Use of Force

BK2005035892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 92 p 8

[Text] More than 30,000 people took part in demonstrations nationwide yesterday to protest against the government's use of force to quell protesters in Bangkok.

Over 21,000 protesters gathered in front of the Nakhon Si Thammarat grounds to demand the ouster of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday.

In Chiang Mai, about 10,000 people rallied in front of Tha Phae market yesterday to protest against the Premier.

A religious ceremony was held behind the stage as a tribute to the protesters killed in Bangkok by soldiers.

An organiser of the protest said that the rally site would be shifted to the Chfiang Mai University campus today.

The protesters in Nakhon Si Thammarat were from Muang, Tha Sala, Chian Yai, Thung Song and Pak Phanang districts.

The rally was being joined by more protesters from Krabi.

—In Trang, about 3,000 demonstrators gathered in front of the town hall to support protests in Bangkok.

—Some 3,000 Songkhla University lecturers and students rallied in front of Songkhla provincial administration headquarters to urge the government office to close and local government officials to attend the rally.

The lecturers and students divided into two groups, the first group riding 35 cars into Hat Yai township and a similar number going straight to Songkhla town to urge people to join the rally.

By about 10 a.m. yesterday 5,000 were at the rally and later submitted a demand to the provincial governor asking the Interior Ministry to immediately release all detained protesters and former Phaang Tham Party leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang and to stop using arms to quell the protesters.

They also demanded an end to controls on the news media, television, and radio stations so they could freely present news to the public.

They also insisted that Gen Suchinda resign.

People in Songkhla Province and another three southern provinces turned to watch news from Malaysian television and reading news from Chinese newspapers published in Malaysia.

More than 10,000 people were expected to attend the rally last night.

—In Pattani 200 university lecturers and students submitted a demand to Governor Wihit Surakun to ask the Government to stop using firearms against the protesters and giving false reports. They said the Government should release all protesters.

They also called on people to join the protest to demand a true democracy.

—In Nakhon Ratchasima, the police and military went to clear the grounds in front of the provincial town hall where a rally was scheduled to take place at 4 p.m.

Provincial authorities also denied the organisers use of the grounds for their gathering.

About 8,000 people gathered at Suan Rak near Thao Suranari Monument to listen to a pro-democracy group speak on the violence in Bangkok.

Earlier yesterday about 500 doctors, nurses, and staff members of Mahara Hospital and college students walked for one-and-a-half kilometers to hand a petition to Governor Damrong Ratanaphanit asking the Government to immediately halt the use of force.

They also expressed deep regret at those killed or injured and urged the Government to find measures to restore peace and order.

The hospital yesterday stopped giving medical treatment to patients from 1 p.m. and would take emergency cases only.

All air-conditioned and ordinary buses stopped operation to Bangkok from Nakhon Ratchasima from 4 p.m. yesterday.

—Anti-Suchinda protests also emerged in Khon Kaen yesterday, featuring moves by students and lecturers of Khon Kaen University.

Protests were held at the university and at the Democracy Monument yesterday by students, lecturers, and some unidentified non-governmental organizations, attracting a large number of people interested in information on the unrest in Bangkok and a rumor that some Khon Kaen locals studying at Thammasat University had died in clashes in the city.

Protesters talked about several planned anti-Suchinda moves such as the closure of Khon Kaen University and some other government offices and the seizure of the university's radio station to air anti-Suchinda views.

Besides, the Faculty of Medicine of Khon Kaen University reportedly sought blood donations in the wake of a shortage in Bangkok.

Troops and police in the province were placed on alert in response to the protests. Plainclothes police were deployed among villagers for intelligence missions and all provincial military camps became 100 percent ready for any movement.

Khynying Wani Khraprayun stayed in Khon Kaen yesterday after finishing a ceremony there. Her scheduled return to Bangkok was delayed from last Tuesday.

In Khon Kaen, lecturers at Khon Kaen University, students, members of the northeast branch of the Campaign for Popular Democracy, doctors and nurses organised a demonstration in the centre of town with a symbolic procession of coffins for those killed in Bangkok by troops.

People clapped to show their support.

At least 1,000 people staged a peaceful protest against Gen Suchinda in an area near the provincial railway station.

Several city councillors and former MPs gave speeches attacking suppression of the public. They also alleged officials are giving false information.

They vowed to continue the rally every day until the prime minister resigns.

Peaceful Rally at University Cited

BK1905161692 Bangkok Color Television Channel 3 in Thai 1528 GMT 19 May 92

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] A moment ago, more than 20 policemen and Army officers from the Capital Security Command tried to disperse people attending a rally at Talat Mahanak market. They were able to detain more than 200 male and female demonstrators. Those demonstrators who had managed to escape regrouped again in an area nearby and booed and jeered the authorities. After detaining the subdued demonstrators for some time and asking them to cooperate by dispersing and returning home, the authorities released all the detained demonstrators, who subsequently clapped their hands to applaud the authorities for not using force against them.

On New Phetburi Road from the Uruphong intersection to the Ratchathewi intersection, a group of people littered the street to obstruct traffic. They also set fire to the garbage on the street. The police authorities moved in to clear the area and put out the fire. However, a moment ago, the garbage was again placed on the street to obstruct traffic.

In front of Ramkhamhaeng University, people and students have been staging a rally since the evening. They have set up a stage at the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority parking lot in front of the university campus. Speeches have been delivered and videos shown to the demonstrators. At the moment, the number of demonstrators has increased into the tens of thousands. Traffic from the Rama IX junction to an area in front of the university has been blocked off. Police authorities are maintaining peace and order for the rally, which is peacefully under way. Commuters who wish to enter the area are advised to use other routes.

Group Tries To Enter TV Channel 7

BK1905143692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] A group of rioters tried to break a security line to get into Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 at an area behind Talat Mo Chit Bus Terminal intending to destroy property at the station. This group of unscrupulous persons, estimated at about 1,000, proceeded to Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 to create a disturbance and destroy property at the station. After a confrontation between this group of unscrupulous persons and the security soldiers for about 15 minutes, this group of unscrupulous persons retreated while trying to incite the people at the Talat Mo Chit to join them. At the same time, the Capital Security Command sent a number of soldiers as reinforcement to the TV station.

It was reported the group of unscrupulous persons seized some buses of The Transport Company at the bus terminal and fled. There is no report on casualties except for a bomb incident last night.

Business Disrupted by Violence

BK2005024992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 92 p 15

[Text] Business in Bangkok yesterday was disrupted by reports of violence, robberies, and demonstrations against the Suchinda government.

The incidents resulted in the early closure of commercial banks, department stores, financial companies, business firms, gas stations and shop houses in various areas of the city.

The stock market also suffered the heaviest decline in its history and trading stopped almost entirely in the last hour of the three-hour trading session because no buying or selling orders were placed with brokerage firms.

A last-minute decision on the possible closure of the stock market today will be made by the Stock Exchange of Thailand's [SET's] board this morning, before the opening of the trading session.

Almost all functions scheduled in various hotels in town were cancelled.

Most businesses were open only in the first half of the day, closing by noon to allow employees to go home for their own safety and the security of the offices.

Rumors and robberies at commercial banks in prime areas including Silom, Sua Pa, and Siam Centre spread throughout the day.

The unstable situation forced banks to close most of their branches in the afternoon.

Bangkok of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit said 75 commercial bank branches, out of the total 669 branches throughout Bangkok, had asked for permission from the central bank to close all day yesterday.

Thousands of people queued up in banks to withdraw their money in the morning. Many banks reportedly ran out of money before noon, forcing them to decide to close.

Banks promised to resume their operations as normal today.

All buildings on Silom Road, the country's most important business street, were closed before noon and companies, banks and financial institutes located in the area were also closed.'

Offices were also forced to close early because the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority was ordered to cease its public bus service from 6 p.m. yesterday to prevent buses from being hijacked by protesters.

Panicked office employees in prime business centres also rushed to nearby department stores and supermarkets after their offices were closed to stock up on food in case the chaos continued.

But they were upset to find that all department stores and supermarkets in town were also closed in the afternoon.

Many department stores placed announcements in front of their stores to apologise to customers for the early closures and promised to open again at 10 a.m. today.

Besides department stores and supermarkets, retail shops also closed in the afternoon while street vendors, who usually occupy the footpaths of all major streets in Bangkok, disappeared yesterday.

Silom road, in particular, was quiet from about 1 p.m., with very few vehicles appearing on the road.

Most entertainment houses were also closed last night.

The stock market, which saw the SET index drop by 65.05 points or 8.89 percent yesterday, was also crowded with rumours.

A threat that a time-bomb would explode at the stock exchange at 11 a.m. caused investors to flee the Sinthon Building, which houses the stock market, and the trading booths of various brokerage firms. The threat was later found to have been groundless.

The stock market also closed its offices in the afternoon.

Panic-stricken investors gathered later in the trading session to discuss the confusing political situation.

Many said it was a bad decision by the Finance Ministry and the SET to open the stock market yesterday.

A number of invstors have signed a letter asking Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to step down as Prime Minister in a bid to end the crisis.

Almost all business functions scheduled to be organized in various hotels yesterday were cancelled.

Paper Urges End to Violence, Use of Force

BK2005042292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Is This Bangkok or Somewhere Else?"]

[Text] Something went terribly wrong in Bangkok yesterday. After a night of bloody clashes on Ratchadamnoen Avenue which resulted in death or injury to a large number of pro-democracy activists, there were distinct indications of panic in the City. Most of the banks closed at midday after serving long queues of people withdrawing money in the morning. Most offices were also closed in the early afternoon as workers returned home amid rumors of more violence. People also hurried to stock up on food supplies, fearing further troubles. But nightfall, otherwise bustling streets like Silom and Rama IV were almost deserted. There was in effect a sense of eeriness reminiscent of the atmosphere in the aftermath of the bloody coup of October 6, 1976.

The situation was not helped by the virtual absence of traffic policemen on the streets and duty officers at police kiosks, many of which had earlier been destroyed by motorcycle gangs. Public safety was in doubt. Perhaps the only comfort last night could be drawn from the apparent fact that the motorcyclist gangs that went on a wrecking spree on Monday night were kept at bay by street patrols of heavily-armed, police-cum-military units. But that was hardly reassuring in an atmosphere totally uncharacteristic of Bangkok by night.

Against such a background, it is clear that the Thai social fabric has been shattered. Like the incalculable damage to the economy wrought by the violence of the last three days that businessmen say will take a long time to recover, it will take a long time for this social wound to heal.

The televised statement by Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday, in which he obliquely accused New Aspiration Party leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut of being communist-inspired and urged the public to disregard rumors, did not make things better. Amid the sharp polirisation, Gen Suchinda appears determined to press ahead in the seat of government. But despite the crackdown on and subsequent mass round-ups of pro-democracy activists on Ratchadamnoen Avenue on Monday night and yestterday morning, pockets of resistance have continued as evidenced by the demonstration at Ramkhamhaeng University last night in defiance of the ban on illegal political assembly.

Outraged telephone calls to this newspaper office, demonstrations in the provinces and a flurry of activities by university academics yesterday have roundly condemned the killings of the pro-democracy activists and called for an immediate end to further violence.

It is clear the current crisis will take some time before it is satisfactorily resolved to the best interests of Thailand. But because it is in charge of administrating the country at this crucial moment, the Government should waste no time in starting the lengthy process of healing our social wounds by righting some of the wrongs. Rioting and vandalism should be dealt with harshly under the law. But the larger groups of pro-democracy protestors who had demonstrated in genuine good faith and who have been arrested should be set free. Most immediate of all is to stop any further use of force.

Army Defends Actions

BK2005040292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 92 p 9

[Text] The Army yesterday defended its use of weapons against unarmed protesters, insisting soldiers fired only in self-defence and that they are willing to "accept public criticism" of their action.

Speaking on behalf of the Capital Security Command, Col Bunchon Chawansin, the Army assistant secretary, said if the public criticises the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators he will "pass on the criticism to the Armed Forces to adopt softer measures".

Asked if opening fire on unarmed civilians does not constitute a brutal and unnecessary use of force, Col Banchon replied: "The practice depends on the case. It's hard to answer. You have to tell me to whom you are referring and we will explain it case by case."

Asked how many were killed, Col Banchon said figures are being compiled from many agencies involved and he does not have a tally.

Reporters saw scores of bodies in front of the Royal Hotel on Monday night and around the Public Relations Department and the State Lottery Bureau. From their accounts and those of other known eyewitnesses, the figure is estimated at no less than 100 killed. Hospitals have been ordered not to reveal the figures or allow reporters to interview the wounded.

Many witnesses also said they saw Army GMC trucks carting off the dead from the scene.

Asked what responsibility the authorities will take for the shootings, Col Bahchon said the Prime Minister has already ordered the Public Health Ministry to take care of the wounded with the Government to meet the expenses involved.

Asked how he regards the middle of the city being turned into a small war zone, Col Banchon asked whether people feared seeing the Public Relations Department razed and 100,000 protesters smashing public property.

He said the military will see what the majority of people think and explain the situation to them. If they "swore" at the military for its actions then they would "thank them for the criticism and inform the Armed Forces accordingly."

Asked why it was necessary to use M-16s and to fire hundreds of thousands of rounds to clear demonstrators when other riot control methods should have been used, Col Banchon said this depends on the job to be done.

He added sarcastically: "How many hundreds of thousands of rounds did you say we fire?"

Asked whether he believes the military damaged the country through its action, Col Banchon said he would forward the message to his superiors. He said the action may have been violent and he also got calls at his home denouncing the action.

"I will tell them to use arms carefully in future."

He said the crowd "went mad" late on Monday night and destroyed everything in sight—vehicles, buses, or buildings. The situation became more violent after midnight with oil trucks hijacked to ram the column of soldiers who opened fire "on their wheels and not the drivers," he insisted.

Around 4:50 a.m. yesterday eight buses were also set afire in front of the Public Relations building. The area was finally "cleared" by 6 a.m., Col Banchon said.

He said the majority of protesters were there out of honest democratic convictions but a smaller group tried to manipulate a violent situation to occur.

The situation should have come to a stop when Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang was arrested but there was another group of "hired hands" and "opportunists," numbering about 200, taking advantage of the situation by vandalising the city on motorcycles, he said.

He said the military feared they would emerge to cause chaos in the city again last night. The authorities have "evidence" against those behind this.

A platoon of soldiers will be sent to all police stations to "help" policemen.

He said "strict and decisive" measures will be taken against motorcycle gangs but denied this is equivalent to a shoot-on-sight order because a lot of innocent people also use motorcycles.

He claimed the authorities have evidence that about 100 motorcycles will be hired from the Sathu Pradit area to create trouble in the city last night. Two motorcyclists were arrested on Monday night and told the authorities they were hired by two men called "Mana" and "Wira".

Correspondents Witness Abuse of Detainees

BK2005005492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 May 92 p A1

[Text] Soldiers and policemen yesterday beat up and abused many of the prodemocracy protesters under detention at Bang Khen Police School. They were seen assaulting a newspaper cameraman with a rifle butt as he tried to photograph the attacks.

About 2,500 protestors are in detention after being rounded up in the brutal crackdowns by the army yesterday and this morning.

Reporters witnessed the beating and the abuse of the detainees at 4 pm yesterday during the change of guards, comprising 100 police commandos manning the school field. Four photographers from NAEO NA, THAI RAT, and MATICHON newspapers were near the fence to take pictures of the detainees.

But a police commando, spotting the cameramen, ran towards them. The four fled but NAEO NA photographer Wisit Saengmuang stumbled and fell to the ground. He was kicked in the chin and hit on his head with a rile butt. The policeman dragged away the unconscious cameraman. He was later taken to Lat Yao Prison but it was not clear what change was pressed against him.

On the other side of the school fence, two reporters saw about 1,000 soldiers and policemen approached with a rifle pointed at the reporters and sternly told them to leave the area. When this was happening, the policeman barked: "I don't care who you are, just leave this area."

Reporters looking through the fence saw male detainees being stripped to their waists and seated on army trucks under the hot sun, while females were loaded on many buses.

After they got down from the vehicles, they had to walk past flanks of soldiers and police commandos. When any of the detainees slowed down, they were kicked and abused repeatedly.

Throughout yesterday, there were more than 50 buses and military trucks moving in and out of the school compound, each loaded with arrested pro-democracy demonstrators. Most of them were rounded up at the Royal Hotel yesterday morning and were later moved to Lat Yao Prison. The first group of detainees, arrested on Monday, remained at the school.

Bail was initially set at Bt50,000 each, but later reduced to Bt30,000 in cast. For securities, the amount was reduced from Bt100,000 to Bt60,000 under court valuation.

In the evening, an air force security officer read a list of 102 people who had been released, but their relatives and reporters saw 10 only emerge from the school compound. The officer said the people had been released at the rear gate.

Reporters saw that those released had to sign a blank piece of paper handed to them by soldiers. A female student refused to sign her name and she was not released.

Hospital Discloses Casualty Figures

BK2005013692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 20 May 92

[Excerpt] Dr. Somphon Phongthai, director of Ramathibodi Hospital [in Bangkok], said as of the morning of 19 May 66 wounded patients—62 men and four women—were delivered to his hospital. Eight of the 62 patients were policemen. One of the male patients died before arriving, five others died at the hospital. Twenty-six patients now remain in the hospital. [passage omitted]

Fuel Supplies May End Due to Delivery Suspension

BK2005041992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 May 92 p 1

[Text] Fuel supplies in Bangkok and adjoining provinces will run dry today if the country's four major oil distributing companies maintain their suspension of deliveries of gasoline and diesel oil to retail outlets.

Officials of Shell, Esso, Caltex and the state-owned Petroleum Authority of Thailand said the suspension took effect yesterday afternoon on police instruction and the companies' initiative as a precaution.

Two oil trucks were commandeered by a group of protesters who drive them against soldiers at the height of the clash between demonstrators and the troops at Ratchadamnoen Avenue on Monday night.

The officials said the suspension means all of more than 100 gas stations in and around Bangkok will have no more stocks from tomorrow.

All gas stations closed their normal services yesterday afternoon in the wake of rumours of widespread vandalism and robbery by motorcycle gangs and criminals.

Some stations which still hold stocks continued selling until after midday but all decided to close after policemen asked them to do so.

The officials said supplies to the provinces will be maintained by train from oil depots at Chong Nonsi.

The delivery of jet fuel for Don Muang International Airport was also suspended and the airport's stock will run out in five days without replenishment.

The companies have already asked local police to send officers to provide security for their oil depots but until yesterday no policemen had been sent, the official said.

Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh Returns From China Visit

BK1905162192 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, returned here today, successfully concluding a fortnight visit to China. While there, he was received by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Li Peng, premier of the State Council.

The Chinese leaders and Nguyen Van Linh expressed satisfaction at the further consolidation and development of the friendship between the two parties and countries.

Nguyen Van Linh visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Nanning.

Youth Delegation Visits China

BK2005101992 Hanoi VNA in English 0642 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—A delegation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union led by Ha Quang Du, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and president of the Vietnam Youth Federation, visited China from May [date indistinct] as guest of the Communist Youth League of China.

The Vietnamese delegation had talks with a Chinese youth delegation led by Song Defu, member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and first secretary of the [word indistinct]. The two sides informed each other of the renovated activites of the young people in Vietnam and China and discuseed measures to push up tourism, exchanges of experiences and other activites with a view to enhancing the friendly relations between the young people of the two countries.

Oil Exploration Contract With South Korea Signed

BK2005103392 Hanoi VNA in English 0644 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20—A production-sharing contract on oil and gas exploration and exploitation on block 11-2 was signed here yesterday by the Vietnam oil and gas corporation (Petrovietnam) and South Korea's Petroleum Development Corporation (PEDCO).

Signatories were Mr. Truong Thien, general director of Petrovietnam, and Mr. Kak Chong Yu, chairman of PEDCO and representative of a group of South Korean companies.

This is Petrovietnam's 13th production-sharing contract with a foreign country on oil and gas exploration and exploitation of Vietnam's coast.

Under the contract, the South Korean group will make 100 percent investments in the exploration at its ows risk during a period of five years. If oil and gas is found, it will be shared by both sides according to rates mutually agreed upon.

The contract marks a new development in the economic cooperation between Petrovietnam and South Korean companies.

Vietnamese-Malaysia Joint-Venture Bank Opens

BK1905072792 Hanoi VNA in English 0558 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—Vid Public Bank, a joint-venture between Vietnam Investment and Development Bank (BIBV) and Malaysia's Public Bank Berhad (PBB) was officially declared open in Hanoi on Monday morning. Vid Public Bank (VPB), licensed on March 25, is the first joint-venture bank in Hanoi and the first one to engage in investment and development. VPB operates under an agreement signed on September 30, 1991 between BIDV and PBB. It has an equally-shared initial charter capital of 10,000,000 US dollars and a six-man board of directors with Mr. Nguyen Van Doan, BIDV director-general, as chairman and Tan Sri Dato Thong Yaw, chairman of Public Bank Berhad and Public Finance Berhad, as vice chairman. The joint venture bank will not only work for the benefit of the two partners but will also contribute towards the enhancement of economic cooperation and bilateral trade between Vietnam and Malaysia.

Business started immediately after the inauguration ceremony, and Malaysian Ambassador Ni. Parameswaran was the first to open an account.

Import, Export Statistics Reported

BK1805070392 Hanoi VNA in English 0608 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 18—The General Department of Statistics has reported that Vietnam grossed 624.5 million US dollars from exports in the first four months of this year, representing 28.4 percent of the yearly plan or a 35.5 percent increase over the cooresponding period in 1991.

The export of mineral and farm products recorded some increase over the same period last year with crude oil by 50.7 percent, coal by 51.3 percent, zinc by 29.5 percent, rice by 140 percent, coffee by 39.4 percent groundnut by 83 percent and rubber by 75 percent.

Meanwhile, the export of garments and handicraft and art articles suffered a slight decrease.

Also according to the general department of statistics, in the first four months imports totalled 527.3 million US dollars, representing 26.4 percent of the yearly plan or 92.4 percent of the corresponding period last year, the import of complete equipment dropped markedly, on the contrary, the import of fuel increased by 25.9 percent and steel by 31.2 percent compared with the same period last year.

Current, Future Foreign Trade Trends Reported

BK1705075092 Hanoi VNA in English 0627 GMT 17 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 17—As a result of Vietnamese importers and exporters' efforts in the wake the drastic reduction of markets in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Vietnam has found new outlets in Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, France, South Korea and Germany.

Formerly the Soviet Union and the East European countries accounted for 50 percent of Vietnam's export value, but in 1991, 80 percent of the value went to Asian markets. Total export value in 1990 was more than 1.8 billion US dollars, equal to the 1990 figure. Japan ranked first among Vietnam's trade partners with exchanges totalling nearly one billion US dollars. Total import value was 1.9 billion US dollars consisting mainly of materials, fuel, complete equipment, spare parts and consumer goods.

Analysts say that in the near future, South China with a population of 200 million will become a major market of Vietnam with which Vietnam may exchange minerals, farm and forest products, chemicals, steel, asphalt, synthetic fibre, medicines and consumer goods. Also promising are markets in the Asian and Pacific region including Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Besides, Vietnam plans to maintain its trade ties with the former Soviet Union republics, while seeking new outlets in Western Europe and Northern America for the country's garments, wooden carpets, arts and crafts.

Directive Issued on Typhoon, Flood Control

BK1605115792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently issued a directive on the 1992 tasks of controlling typhoons and floods and reducing the consequences of natural calamities.

After pointing out the losses caused by floods and typhoons in 1991 and citing as evidence the many natural calamities such as the limited flashflood in Son La, a huge flashflood in the Mekong River Delta, and a violent December whirlwind in the central Vietnamese provinces, the Council of Ministers directive said:

To minimize losses that may be caused by floods and typhoons, the people's committees at all levels and various sectors from the central down to local levels should intensify their flood and typhoon control activities and intensively prepare for unusually strong typhoons and heavy rain. Special attention should be paid to strengthen projects to protect and support production, protect human lives and property, and safeguard social security.

In the midland and lowland regions, there should be efforts to protect dikes, flashflood barriers, and sluices while taking precautions against possible waterlogging and floods triggered by rain. In the mountain region, precautions should be taken against sweeping flashfloods that may cause landslides. In the Central Vietnamese coastal region, precautions should be taken against typhoons that may be accompanied by violent whirlwinds. Provinces in the Nam Bo Delta should firmly strengthen ricefield embankments, protect winter-spring rice, dikes, and culverts, and prevent salt water from infiltrating through coastal river sluice gates.

There should also be measures to ensure safety for hospitals, schools, grain depots, and other warehouses, fishermen, and their trawlers.

For sensitive areas frequently hit by floods and typhoons, the administration at various levels should direct all units stationed in these areas to plan to prevent and overcome the aftermath of typhoons and floods. They should also regularly inspect these preparations at the various units, and see that it can cope with all situations should a flood or typhoon occur.

Those localities with dikes should urgently finalize their 1992 plans to improve, repair, or build embankments, flashflood barriers, and sluices in anticipation of the torrential rain season.

The Council of Ministers' directive points out the responsibility of the various sectors for preventing violations against dikes, flashflood barriers, and sluices. It also calls for planning typhoon and flood control activities in various areas and for fighting any outbreak of any epidemic and disease.

Vo Chi Cong Sends Greetings on Buddha's Birthday

BK1605135592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 May 92

["Full text" of State Council President Vo Chi Cong's letter of greetings to the Vietnam Buddhist Church on Buddha's Birthday—date of letter not given]

[Text] On this year's Buddha's Birthday—which is based on the 2536 Buddhist Calendar—on behalf of the SRV Council of State, I respectfully extend my sincerest greetings to the esteemed leading monks of the Vietnam Buddhist Church as well as to all other Buddhist monks, nuns, and laymen.

Over the past year, the Vietnam Buddhist Church has guided its Vietnamese Buddhist monks, nuns, and laymen in implementing countless activities to forge closer Buddhist ties with the nation. Buddhist research and preaching have actively contributed to building the nation's traditional culture. The application of Buddhist teachings to the nation's moral life has been carried out satisfactorily. Buddhist charity activities are helping develop the solidarity and mutual love in our national community. It is certain that these contributions, motivated by efforts to ensure the unity and unanimity of the Vietnamese buddhists, will serve as the purest offers to increase the significance of Buddha's Birthday. It is a powerful catapult to ensure the fine success for the forthcoming congress of the Vietnam Buddhist Church.

Once again, I respectfully wish all of you—esteemed leading monks of the Vietnam Buddhist Church and all other Vietnamese Buddhist monks, nuns, and laymen at home and abroad—a merry Buddhist festive season.

Buddhist Leader Thich Mat Hien Passes Away

BK1805160592 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 18—The Most Venerable Thich Mat Hien died of illness at the age of 86 at the Truc Lam Pagoda in Hue City yesterday.

This was announced today by the Vietnam Buddhist Church, the central committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the State Commission for Religious affliates, and the executive board of the Buddhist Church of Thua Thien-Hue.

The Most Venerable Thich Mat Hien was vice president of the Sangha Council and head of the executive board of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, and vice president of the fatherland and deputy of the People's Council of Binh Tri Thien 1st, 2nd and 3rd legislature, and of Thua Thien-hue (1st legislature).

He was awarded the order of independence, first class.

A memorial ceremony will start at the Truc Lam Pagoda at 12:00 on May 19,1992. His funeral will be held on May 24,1992.

Requiems will also be held at the Quan Su Pagoda in Hanoi and at the Xa Loi Pagoda in Ho Chi Minh City on May 23,1992.

Leaders Attend All-Army Women's Congress Opening

BK1905111992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 6 May 92

[Report on 6 May Hanoi opening of the First All-Army Women's Congress—portions recorded]

[Summary] In preparation for the Seventh National Women's Congress, "the first All-Army Women's Congress was solemnly opened in Hanoi this morning, 6 May 1992, with 186 delegates representing 500,000 female soldiers and female defense workers throughout the Armed Forces in attendance."

Also attending the congress were "Senior General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, deputy head of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, and minister of national defense; Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, member of the party Central Committee, standing member of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, and head of the Political General Department; Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, member of the party Central Committee and deputy head of the Political General Department; Nguyen Thi Dinh, chairperson of the Vietnam Women Union; Cu Thi Hau, member of the party Central Committee and vice president of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers; and those who, representing the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, various general departments and agencies of the Ministry of National Defense, various military regions, armed services, and combat branches, are in charge of mass motivation work in the Armed Forces."

On behalf of the Ministry of National Defense and the party Central Committee's Military Commission, Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, head of the Political General Department, delivered an opening speech. He said:

[Begin Le Kha Phieu recording] "Dear comrades: The purposes of our all-army women's congress are to evaluate the women's motivation task and the female soldiers and female defense workers movement over the past few years, to work out the orientations and tasks of the women's movement in the Armed Forces for the years ahead, to contribute views on draft documents of the forthcoming national women's congress, and to nominate delegates to attend the Seventh Vietnamese Women's Congress. Given the new situations at home and abroad, our all-army women's congress will have to make its important contributions if it is to join the entire party, people, and Army in translating the resolution of the seventh party congress into life."

With this spirit, I hereby declare the congress open. [end recording]

Next, Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, deputy head of the Political General Department, read a "report on the situation and tasks regarding the motivation of women in the Armed Forces in the past as well as the orientations for the motivation of women during the period between now and 1997." He said:

[Begin Nguyen Nam Khanh recording] The women motivation movement in the Armed Forces has shown steady progress. This movement has been developed at both the grass-roots and all-army levels. Some 16,129 female soldiers and female defense workers have attained the title of Progressive Women.

"Serving in a 50,000-strong women force, of which 23 percent are female workers and 77 percent are female defense workers, women in the Armed Forces have worked in many fields of activity in the Armed Forces and in many areas throughout the country. Wherever they are assigned, female personnel have always upheld their sense of responsibility by diligently fulfilling their assigned missions."

Achievements made by female soldiers and female defense workers have duly contibuted to improving the integrated qualifications of the Armed Forces. They, together with the entire Armed Forces, have satisfactorily performed the tasks of defending the fatherland's independence and territorial integrity, and protecting the party and the socialist regime. [end recording]

Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, chairperson of the Vietnam Women's Union and Comrade Cu Thi Hau, vice president of the Confederation of Vietnam Workers, also spoke to the congress. They highly praised the many results achieved by some 50,000 female soldiers and female defense workers over the years.

"Dear friends: The First All-Army Women's Congress is scheduled to last from 6-7 May 1992. Thus, the congress will continue in session tomorrow."

Paper Marks Ho Chi Minh's Birthday

BK1905070392 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—NHAN DAN, organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam, today runs an editorial under the title "Ho Chi Minh's Thought Blazes the Way of the Country Toward Prosperity" on the occasion of his 102nd birthday (May 19).

The editorial says: "Reality of the Vietnamese revolution over the past decades has been a measure and a vivid testimony to the dimensions and historical value of Ho Chi Minh's thought which is not only a creative application of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of our country but also the development of that scientific and revolutionary doctrine at a time when nations have been awakened by the aspiration for independence, freedom and development, when imperialism, capitalizing on the achievements of its socientific and technological revolution after the Second World War, tried to readjust to the new times in order to stave off its doom and continue exploiting and enslaving the working masses. Ho Chi Minh's thought not only has guided our people to successfully carry out the people's national democratic revolution but has also provided our nation with invaluable priciples of methodology to defend and consolidate genuine independence of the nation and and to thoroughly liberate our people and take the country toward prosperity through the road of socialist construction. All component factors of Ho Chi Minh's thought, from his ideal and objectives, his revolutionary line and method, his strategic and tactical guiding principles, his principle to build the party and rally revolutionary forces to his virtues, lifestle and revolutiovary activities are an invaluable treasure which he has bequeathed and which must be not only studied but also creatively applied by our entire party and people in the present situation as well as in the future".

Leaders Pay Tribute

BK1905163392 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—delegations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), the National Assembly, the State Council, the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front paid floral tributes to the President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum here this morning on the occasion of his 102d birthday (May 19).

Prominent among homage payers were General Secretary of the CPV Central Committee Do Muoi, president of the State Council Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao, and advisor to the CPV Central Committee Pham Van Dong.

Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of foreign missions also paid floral tributes to President Ho Chi Minh.

Also marking the late president's birth anniversary, the Vietnam Plastic Arts Workers Association in coordination with the Political Department of the Seventh Military [passage indistinct] cultural service organized an art exhibition on resistance [passage indistinct] Chi Minh Museum in the city.

Many songs and dance festivals and other cultural activities were held for the same purpose with the participation of thousands of performers.

Conversion, Integration of Defense Industry Viewed

BK1805105192 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Apr 92 pp 58-63, 83

[Article by doctoral candidate Captain Doan Hung Minh: "Converting the Defense Industry and Integrating It Into the National Economy"]

[Text] Nobody can deny the fact that it would be very beneficial to shift the production capabilities of the defense industry to civilian purposes. According to initial estimates, in today's world as much as 10 percent of the total industrial work force and 40-50 percent of the overall contingent of engineers and scientists have been employed by the defense industry. Therefore, in their national defense strategy adjustment processes, after realizing that part of their national defense capabilities has become unneeded, military powers have sought ways to rationally shift that surplus strength to civilian purposes. Maybe because their defense production sectors have become overloaded compared with the level the national economies can handle, many developing countries also have definite conversion needs despite the fact that they still have a long way to go before they can have "sufficient defense capabilities." In addition, when a country shifts from war to peace or no longer faces the danger of war, detente and stability will give rise to a sudden or unexpected drop in the demand for military equipment, the capacities of national defense plants will become surplus, and as such, it would be quite normal for the national defense production sector to shift to civilian purposes.

Regarding the conversion of the defense industry, people have supplied different, even completely contradicting definitions, especially when it comes to determining objectives, solutions, measures, and initial motive forces. In the United States, the defense industry belongs mainly to the private sector. Consequently, as defense contracts expire, except for those industrial production facilities which need separate storage and maintenance, military industrial complexes are likely to seek ways to quickly liquidate old production facilities and install new ones, and immediately shift to the production of diversified goods to meet civilian demands. Generally speaking, the U.S. defense industry is not inclined to engage in a dual-purpose production structure using a single production line or facility. Therefore, the conversion of the U.S. defense industry involves a complete shift from military to civilian purposes.

The concepts of researchers in the former Soviet Union on the conversion of the defense industry are also different and subject to marked changes with time. At first, the combination of a dual-purpose production structure at defense industry facilities was assessed as a "fire brigade" to cope with consumer product shortages. Later, as more light was shed on the "transient" character of that concept, there emerged the demand for a fundamental conversion of the defense industry to turn it into a "locomotive" to pull the economy out of a crisis. To this end, the need for investment capital stands out as a very serious obstacle and as a result of the call for investment from the West, the conversion of the defense industry in the former Soviet Union has created conditions for the West to attach strings to its economic aid packages, asking for greater access to defense industry-related information, guarantee for non-return of the production of military equipment, and conversion of the defense industry according to the terms set by the West. In the recent past, many debates have focused on the "stroke therapy" and privatization in the framework of the conversion of the defense industry in the former Soviet Union.

China also has its own option—its idea of converting its defense industry. At a national conference held in October 1989 to discuss the question of linking national defense with the people's well-being, the Chinese premier underscored the idea of "linking military with civilian affairs." To express this idea, foreign news media have used the word "conversion"—probably an inaccurate jargon word. China does not advocate renovating the entire technological program and the essential functions of its defense machineworks in the direction of manufacturing goods catering to the people's well-being. Instead, it is opting for a long-term alternative program with many phases designed to reduce investment-related spending while maintaining the potential to develop new weapons and technologies.

Generally speaking, the demand to shift defense industry toward serving the people's well-being will become much fiercer in those countries with a centralized and planned economy and a defense industry history independent of the national economy. Previously, through old managerial and organizational methods, defense industry experts overwhemingly believed that the advantage of pioneering defense industry innovations could be assured through various priority policies that allowed the monopoly use of the latest scientific-technological findings as well as through other policies designed to maintain secrecy by limiting personal contacts and the exchange of industrial secrets. Yet, it is these defense industry experts who later realized that such policies have in many ways restricted the progress of the defense industry. The following is a case in point: The first-generation computers of the United States and the Soviet Union came into being almost at the same time. But in the Soviet Union in the early days computers were put under monopoly use for national defense purposes. On the other hand, the United States made computers available for use for both national defense and public utility purposes. Thanks to market competition, U.S. computers have constantly been improved and have been out-performing the Soviet Union technologically since the 1970s. Internationally, over the past 20 years, many civilian industries have, in various aspects, outdone military industry unexpectedly, leaving the latter far behind. It is not without reasons that the United States has been asking Japan to contribute more secrets of its civilian industries (such as computer, integrated-circuit chips, telecommunications devices, and so forth) to its Strategic Defense Initiative program.

As far as our country is concerned, despite its special circumstances and characteristics as seen in its development process and in its current situation, there is now also an objective need for its defense industry to alter its production direction by transferring part of the existing industry capabilities to the manufacture of goods catering to the people's well-being in keeping with the ever-heavier duties in the cause of national construction and defense.

Born out of the war for national defense, Vietnam's defense industry has been built and organized in a manner appropriate to the realities of history and is practical for the military lines in each given revolutionary stage. Thanks to its special position, operating as an integral part of the armed forces, Vietnam's defense industry performed outstandingly during the war at a time when our country was still a poor and backward agricultural nation. The potentialities of our defense industry were reported to have been exploited to the fullest thanks to combined efforts in exploiting and utilizing weapons and equipment under a collective, organizational system designed to ensure adequate technical equipment for the armed forces. Under such circumstances, the defense industry has become a component part of Vietnam's military science and has met practical demands for unexpected innovations.

However, when shifting to peacetime we have gradually realized that there are many limitations to the organizational model of our defense industry, which was designed during a time of war. Theoretically and practically, the activities and development trends of defense industry depend not only on the direct military and national defense requirements but also on the influences of the military-economic laws. In a time of peace, the impact of military-economic laws is ever stronger and plays a very decisive role in balancing programs and objectives of the defense industry. When the volumes of foreign aid and "international subsidies become adequate enough to support the defense industry and ensure sufficient military technical equipment for the army, it seemed that no attention was paid to the different principles in the activities and management mechanism of these domains. In a time of peace, when we have to strive to become self-reliant in building our national military-economic potentials, we then clearly realize the differences in the relations between defense industry and the supply of military technical equipment. This is actually the relationship between the first and final phases in the cycle of the military-economic law and military production and consumption. As a result, for quite a long time, misunderstanding of the relationship between defense industry and military consumption has adversely affected the defense industry's production relations, obstructed coordination between the defense industry and social production force, and led to the rejection of the dynamic role of the objective economic law related to the defense industry's production and business activities.

It is noteworthy that after more than a decade of peace, many factories producing national defense goods have "disappeared." Some of them have vigorously shifted to producing consumer goods. As a result, the industrial structure and production organization have changed from the old planning, which was designed to meet national defense requirements. If we continue to firmly combine the defense industry with national economy and change the course of the approved production orientation, then the defense industry's military production function will be difficult to restore and, on a long-term basis, its role as a key factor will no longer exist. It is also noteworthy that workshops of military regions, armed services, and armed branches as well as a number of national defense factories with the capacity of handling minor repairs and maintenance of military technical equipment (including sophisticated equipment requiring totally imported spare parts) are likely to be exploited to directly serve, and be used by, the army only (military consumption). It is not appropriate for these establishments to chiefly rely on the subsidies of the national defense budget while efforts are being made to deploy them into the defense industry's formation; but it is more appropriate to deploy them into the military technical equipment supply's structure. Many defense workshops have a remarkable industrial potential and a standard production capacity and, on some occasions, have become important factories at the national industrial level—such as the Ba Son shipyard. The "military repair nature" of these workshops is not the proper reason for integrating them into the formation and management mechanism of the domain for exploitation and use of military technical equipment. On the contrary, it is necessary to integrate them into the defense industry's structure to participate in promoting and releasing the existing industrial potentials.

So stated, on a theoretical as well as a practical basis, not only should the defense industry be rearranged and reorganized but also it must have part of its technological abilities shifted to the production of staple consumer goods. What we have recently achieved in separating organizationally the defense industry from the technical equipment group and in gradually institutionalizing and renovating the management mechanism of the defense industry has created important premises for the defense industry to return to the environment of objective "normal life". On this basis, we can advance gradually toward transforming the defense industry from being one of the factors causing heavy burdens to the national defense budget (annual military expenses) into a considerable production force that participates effectively in the process of recycling and expanding production throughout the entire society. This will do away with the separate and closed-in technology, organize production, management mechanisms, and social activities in various defense industry factories, and integrate the defense industry step by step with the national economy.

With a view to integrating the defense industry with the national economy, in the forthcoming days we should note the following points:

1. Whether the process of shifting and integrating the defense industry with the national economy can take place quickly or slowly, and what its economic and defense effects will be, depends on the active role of the national economy itself in approaching the developmental requirements of the defense industry. Everyone has recognized the great potential and capability of the defense industry factories and the benefits brought about by the production of consumer goods in these factories. The requirements of shifting production and integrating defense industry with the national economy to support the national defense and economic tasks have also become urgent now. However, it is clear that whether the defense industry can take quick or slow steps depends on the active role of the national economy itself and on the awareness of the importance of the national industry to the national economy and defense. We must also realize that: "Our country has started socialist construction from a very low point and has remained a poor and underdeveloped country with a backward and heavily autarkic agriculture and poor technical equipment and socioeconomic infrastructures..." ("Strategy of Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development Until the Year 2,000"—Seventh party congress documents). Our consumer goods industry, which is also unbalanced and dependent on imported supplies and raw materials, is encountering difficulties in formulating its own long-term plans and organizational structures. A body that has not extricated itself from the crisis is not yet ready to assume new responsibilities. The "insoluble" characteristics of military production have not allowed for the immediate introduction of defense industry into the organizational pattern of the national industry. On the contrary, they might even make the present state of industrial domains even more complex and harder to manage. As such, even though the defense industry wants to advance quickly toward integration, it still has to wait for "signals" from the national economy.

At present, the mobilization of industry is also partly aimed at settling this important idea. The satisfactory mobilization of industry is not to be understood as something purely useful to national defense tasks; the national economy itself must actively "approach" the developmental requirements of the defense industry for labor division and cooperation between the civil and national defense industries.

2. The integration of national defense industry with the national economy must be a bilateral process in which the investment in defense industry is emphasized in order to enable the defense industry to participate more effectively in the domains of national welfare and people's livelihood. As for the consumer goods industry, its equipment capacity is also organized and prepared for industrial mobilization to participate in military production in case of war. The transfer from peacetime to wartime and the operational and managerial control of defense industry in wartime must be organized and placed under the unified leadership of the state on the national industry scale, with the participation of all sectors and echelons involved. In preparation for this goal, one of the measures that must be carried out in peacetime is to organize the division, specialization, and cooperativeness of labor between the defense and civil industries.

With the process of preparing for industrial mobilization, the absolute monopolization of military production by defense industry factories will no longer exist. Moreover, if civil factories turn out better military products, they may receive orders from the army and might become the leading mainstay in technology or equipment capacity. Nevertheless, although the defense industry is reduced, its core sectors continue to be consolidated in depth. Its monopolistic role and its vanguard and spearhead position in the domains of military technologies of special use—which require high labor discipline, decisive technological secrets, and the technicality and tactical peculiarities of weapons—and in the manufacture of delicate and highly specialized military products, and all the production parts that are noxious, dangerous, or directly related to national security, are always to be firmly maintained.

The division and specialization of labor in defense industry factories, as far as the domain of production for people's livelihood is concerned, should be understood not from the standpoint of "products" but in the sense of "technology." Products for the people's livelihood which are turned out by defense industry must be in line with the general principles of market competition. The priorities that the national economy may probably give to the defense industry factories will not be subsidies in the consumption of products but will be an orientation of investment in those technologies of double benefits in order to ensure the effectiveness of production in the direction of combining national defense benefits with economic interests. This is also a procedure to consolidate the latent potential of military production in an economical and practical manner.

3. Along with the process of integration, we should promptly renovate the viewpoint and knowledge concerning the questions of preserving secrecy and adjusting the organization of defense industry. In particular, when the national economy begins to open its door of interchange with many countries in the world, it will be very difficult for defense industry factories to keep secret their positions and designations and even their missions. Loud and wide advertisements on weapons and defense industry in Western countries do not mean that forbidden areas no longer exist there. Through these loud and wide ads, we can hardly get decisive information on the unexpected strength of military production potential such as: new technological secrets, reserve equipment capacity, the speed of the transformation and mobilization of industries, and the potential for storing supplies and raw materials for military production in wartime. Nowadays, with the modern techniques of telereconnaissance, no matter how remotely and isolatedly defense industry factories are located, they can still be detected and raided easily.

Therefore, as far as the location of defense industry facilities in the various industrial centers is concerned, one should think of ways to apply a "dovetailing sawtooth pattern," putting defense industry facilities next to civilian factories to make sure that if a defense industry facility comes under attack, one can use the nearest civilian factory to restore and maintain military production. Realities show that for the sake of good camouflage and favorable world reaction, a certain country made arrangements for a defense factory to operate within a baby food processing plant.

4. Integration of the defense industry into the national economy calls for efforts not only to renovate the management mechanism of the defense industry but also to attach great importance to the various social aspects of defense industry facilities themselves. Defense industry facilities are located separately in jungle or mountain regions far away from urban areas and some of them had to be evacuated many times during the war. This fact makes it difficult to implement the various social policies toward defense industry workers and continues to exert a heavy impact on the ability of defense industry facilties to exercise the right to autonomy in business accountability. At present, compared with civilian industrial establishments, defense industry facilities have less favorable conditions for securing employees' well-being, broadening cultural and scientific-technical activities, and expanding markets. With regard to remuneration and preferred treatment, there still exists a considerably wide gap between defense industry facilities near cities and industrial centers and those located in jungle or mountain areas. The more specialized a defense industry facility became to meet the military requirements of the past war, the greater difficulties it faced in trying to adapt itself to "normal life" now. This is an undeniable fact that many countries have already taken into account. Therefore, as far as the conversion process is concerned, defense industry facilities need capital support to formulate new management mechanisms and other policies commensurate with the actual socioeconomic situation at present. This level of support must also be proportionate with defense industry facilities' special military and civilian production capabilities. Also, the pace of integration into the market mechanism cannot be equal and uniform among defense industry facilities.

In conclusion, we may say that viewed from many angles the conversion of the defense industry into the national economy is an important part of the overall efforts to make this industry keep pace with economic and national defense requirements and interests set by the new situation arising from the period of transition to socialism in our country at present.

Australia

Prime Minister 'Appalled' at Bangkok Violence

BK2005084792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0322 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] CANBERRA, May 20 (AFP) - Australia is appalled at the Thai military's excessive use of force against anti-government demonstrators in Bangkok, Prime Minister Paul Keating said here Wednesday.

Earlier, the Foreign Affairs Department summoned Thailand's ambassador, Rongphet Sucharitkun, to lodge an official protest against the military crackdown.

Keating's statement strongly condemned Thai authorities over the bloodshed.

"Now that the full extent and character of the recent violence in Bangkok has become clearer, I take the opportunity on behalf of all Australians to express our horror at the actions which have led to this needless loss of life," Keating said.

"We are appalled at the widespread use of excessive force by the Thai military," Keating said.

The prime minister said television footage of troops firing on unarmed demonstrators and scenes of the injured in a hotel lobby were in tragic contrast to the progress Thailand had made in recent years towards prosperity and stability.

"I hope that the Thai Government will do all in its power to restore conditions whereby political differences can be resolved peacefully," he said.

Acting Foreign Minister John Kerin is to meet a delegation from Australia's Thai community at parliament house later Wednesday.

Late Tuesday the Foreign Affairs Department warned Australians to avoid travelling to Bangkok unless absolutely necessary.

"Australians who nevertheless travel to or are already in Thailand should exercise particular care, maintain a very high level of personal security awareness and avoid large gatherings and demonstrations," a department spokesman said.

Joint Military Exercise Canceled

BK2005083792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 20 May 92

[Excerpts] Canberra, May 20 (AFP)—Expressing "horror" at the slaughter of unarmed civilians by troops in Bangkok, Australia cancelled a joint military exercise on Wednesday, but stopped short of cutting off aid to Thailand.

"We are appalled at the widespread use of excessive force by the Thai military," Prime Minister Paul Keating told a news conference here.

He announced that 31 Australian military personnel who have been on joint training exercises with Thai forces for the past two weeks will be withdrawn without delay.

"We think it is incongruous that in these circumstances Australian military personnel be training with Thai personnel while the Thai military are taking this action against their citizens," he said.

"We will examine the whole relationship" with Thailand, he went on, but when asked whether Australia was considering a suspension of economic aid, he replied: "Not at this stage."

The 37 million dollar (27.9 million U.S.) aid budget is "for the people of Thailand," he said. "It's not for the generals." [passage omitted]

All 20 members of Australian Special Air Services regiment who have been training with Thai forces will be withdrawn, together with the 11-man crew of a Hercules C-130 troop transporter, Keating said.

He said these were the only Australian troops in Thailand.

Thai officers training in Australia would be allowed to stay, Keating said.

Defence Ministry spokesman Major David Tyler said the troops have been taking part in exercises, code-named Night Hawk, in various parts of Thailand and were originally due to leave on May 28.

He said it would take "a couple of days" to round up all those taking part and no date could be set for their departure.

The exercises involved only Australia and Thailand.

Keating rejected opposition claims that the government had been slow to respond to the bloodshed in Bangkok.

"The fact that I'm saying we're appalled by the violence, we express our horror at the actions of the military in shooting down its citizens is about as strong a position as I think as we could say or take," he said.

New Zealand

Protest Filed Over Citizen's Death in Bangkok

BK2005083892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0237 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Wellington, May 20 (AFP)—New Zealand has informed Thailand of its outrage over the death of a New Zealander during protests in Bangkok, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Wednesday.

A New Zealand teacher, Ian Neumegen, 40, was shot and killed during anti-government protests near the Thai capital's Democracy Monument on Tuesday.

McKinnon summoned Thailand's charge d'affaires Atthaphon Phutthikamphon to a meeting Wednesday and told him during a 15- minute exchange the government was "horrified and outraged" at Neumegen's death.

"We are sending a very strong message to the Thai Government that we really do expect the peaceful dialogue process to get back on track," he told reporters, referring to talks between the Thai authorities and demonstrators demanding the resignation of unelected Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

"The charge has expressed his sympathy as to what has happened and has agreed to convey my message to his government," McKinnon said.

Phutthikamphon said he knew no details of how the New Zealander died, but that "I feel sorry about that and I feel sorry for his family."

Neumegen had lived in Thailand since 1988 where he was an assistant teacher at the International School of Bangkok.

His brother Max told Radio New Zealand here that Neumegen had left his home to buy some food when a person alongside him was shot in the leg. He bent down to check the wounded man and was then shot himself.

He was in the wrong place at the wrong time, his brother said.

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Rebels Claim Wounding of 5 Soldiers

BK1905173592 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] The Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] claims to have wounded a third of the Papua New Guinea [PNG] soldiers who landed on southern Bougainville last week. The BRA says it will drive the security force from the south of the secessionist island and has threatened locals who helped the defense force soldiers.

The party of 15 soldiers and police landed at (Siwai) 10 days ago. Radio Free Bougainville says the rebels have attacked the area, killing or wounding five members of the security force and one local branded as a traitor.

The PNG defense force has confirmed that there had been contact with the BRA at (Siwai) in the last two days saying there had been no deaths but could not comment on injuries.

Additional Troops Land on Bougainville

BK2005062492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] A second wave of Papua New Guinea [PNG] troops has landed on Bougainville in a bid to gain a foothold in the south and west of the island. The defense force commander, Brigadier General (Roches Lapalau), said about 100 troops landed earlier this week at Torokina on the west coast after being invited to the region by local village people. Last week security forces landed at (Siwai) in south Bougainville.

The landings now mean that the PNG administration now has a presence across northern Bougainville and in the south and west, further isolating the secessionist Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] in its stronghold in the center of the island.

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